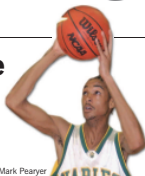


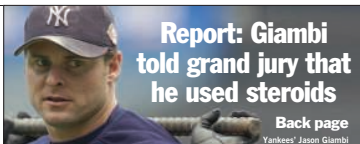
STARS AND STRIPES®

**DODDS-Europe
basketball
preview**
Page 32



Naples' Mark Pearyer

**Program sends
movies, snacks to
deployed troops**
Page 5



**Report: Giambi
told grand jury that
he used steroids**

Back page

Yankees' Jason Giambi

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2004

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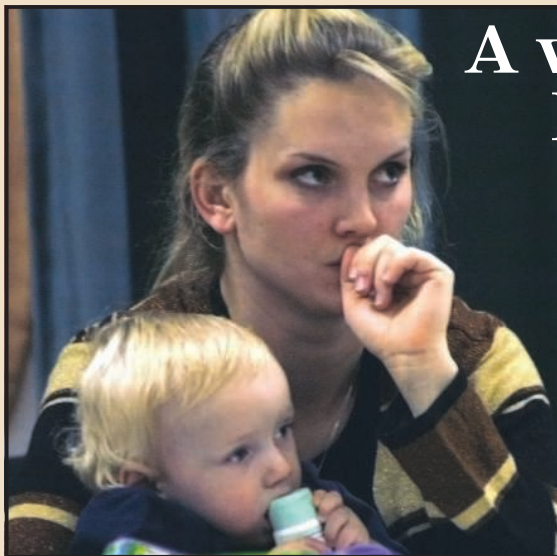
Federal civilian workers in Europe get allowance boost

State Department increases funds to offset rising euro Page 3

A wait gets longer

Families of
66th Transportation
Company react
to news of unit's
extended deployment

Page 3



Ulrike Reinhardt and her son, Noah, listen to Wednesday's announcement in Kaiserslautern, Germany, that the 66th Transportation Company will not return from Iraq until March, the result of a two-month tour extension. The extension, which includes Sgt. Philip Brown, Reinhardt's husband and Noah's father, is part of a plan to increase troop levels in Iraq during the country's Jan. 30 election.

BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Guys going for
good grooming

Scene on Sunday

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a modern balladeerDon't miss a
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TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	24
American Roundup	18-19
Classified	25-27
Comics	22-24
Crossword	23
Faces	21
Horoscope	22
Letters	14
Opinion	15
Sports	28-36
Tv listings	20
Weather	17
Your Money	16

News Tracker What's new with old news

War on terrorism

Akbar court-martial: A sergeant's admission that he rolled grenades into the tents of sleeping soldiers in Kuwait last year will be admissible when he goes on trial in the attack, a judge at Fort Bragg, N.C., ruled Thursday.

The ruling came at a pretrial hearing for Sgt. Hasan Akbar, 33, of the 101st Airborne Division. A statement he made immediately after the attack was admitted as evidence but some later statements were disallowed by the military judge, Col. Stephen Henley. Henley also granted Akbar's lawyers a delay in his trial until April 5 so they could gather more documentation for an insanity defense. The court-martial had been set for Feb. 15.

Moussaoui trial: A Jordanian man who claims he was Osama bin Laden's bodyguard was questioned by U.S. officials who are considering having him testify at the Virginia trial of terror suspect Zacarias Moussaoui, the man's attorney said Thursday. Shadi Abdallah, 28, sentenced last November to four years in prison for helping plan terror attacks in Germany, was granted early release last month after serving more than half the time, including in pretrial custody.

Abdallah is now in the country's witness protection program, but Germany allowed U.S. prosecutors to talk with him for three days this week as they consider whether to use him as a witness in the Moussaoui trial.

U.S. soldier killed: An American soldier was fatally injured when a Humvee vehicle rolled over in Kabul, Afghanistan, while another was slightly hurt by a bomb, the military said Thursday.

The Humvee accidentally overturned during a routine security patrol Wednesday evening in Pakista province, a military statement said.

The second soldier, hurt when a home-made bomb hit a U.S. convoy patrolling near Asadabad in eastern Kunow province, was treated and returned to duty, the military said.

Hassan kidnapping: A mutilated body found in Iraq is not that of kidnapped aid worker Margaret Hassan, the British government said Wednesday. But the Foreign Office said it continued to believe Hassan was not murdered, although the evidence was not conclusive.

The Foreign Office said dental tests conducted in the United States showed the body of a woman of Western appearance, found in Fallujah last month by U.S. Marines, was not Hassan.

The Iraq director of the aid group CARE International, Hassan, 39, was abducted on her way to work in Baghdad on Oct. 19. On Nov. 16, the Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera said it had received a video showing the execution of a female hostage identified as Hassan.

World

Haiti violence: U.N. peacekeeping forces circled Haiti's capital Thursday, hours after at least 11 people were killed and scores wounded in violence that marred Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit with Haitian leaders aimed at stopping the country's bloodshed.

Peacekeepers stood guard around the national penitentiary, where inmates rioted Wednesday night, leaving seven dead. Prisoners armed with knives and rocks tried to break free as gunmen outside opened fire, said national prison director Frimbert Pierre. Pierre said the violence was in reaction to leaked information that prison authorities



Congo unrest: Congolese soldiers guard a government official's house Thursday in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. U.N. air and ground patrols have photographed freshly made encampments and unidentified well-equipped troops in east Congo, U.N. officials said Thursday, bolstering suspicions, still unconfirmed, that Rwanda is making good on its threat to send troops into its larger, weaker neighbor. U.N. officials say they have yet to conclusively determine any Rwandan troop presence in Congo — a finding that would confirm a Rwanda violation of central African peace accords and leave the international community with the difficult decision of how to react.

planned to transfer some inmates.

U.S. woman's Peru conviction: The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has upheld the conviction of an American woman imprisoned in Peru for terrorist collaboration with Marxist guerrillas, President Alejandro Toledo confirmed Thursday. When asked to comment on news reports of the ruling about Lori Berenson, Toledo told Radioprogramas radio that the court members "have ratified the sentence and I once again salute the court members."

The court, which is affiliated with the Organization of American States, last week denied Berenson's appeal and 20-year sentence.

Indonesia terror trial: The bombing last year of the J.W. Marriott hotel in Indonesia's capital was inspired by Osama bin Laden, a militant who was convicted in the attack said Thursday.

"I met with Osama bin Laden frequently in Afghanistan and heard him speak about waging war against America and its allies," Mohammad Rais said in testimony in the trial of alleged terrorist leader Abu Bakar Bashir. "We saw the Marriott attack as a message from Osama bin Laden," he said. Bashir, an Islamic cleric, has been charged with heading al-Qaida's alleged affiliate in Southeast Asia, Jemaah Islamiyah, and with inciting followers to take part in the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, and the Marriott attack that killed 12.

Nation

Lotto winner arrested: A man who won a record \$315 million in the Powerball lottery was taken to jail on charges of drunken driving and carrying a pistol, authorities said.

Jack Whittaker, 57, was arrested Tuesday night after his Hummer struck a concrete median on the West Virginia Turnpike near Beckley.

Troopers also said they found a small pistol in Whittaker's boot and he was carrying \$117,000. He was released after he was arraigned and posted \$1,700 bail. Besides the DUI and weapons charges, he was charged with failure to maintain control of his vehicle and failure to submit to a breath test.

Right-to-die case: Florida Governor Jeb

Bush went to the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday in a bid to keep a severely brain-damaged woman alive over her husband's objections.

At issue is whether Bush overstepped his authority when he pushed through the Legislature a law in 2003 that allowed him to have Terri Schiavo's feeding tube reinserted. Six days earlier, her husband had the tube removed with a judge's approval.

Election indictment: President Bush's former New England campaign chairman says he will fight a federal indictment in the jamming of get-out-the-vote phone lines Election Day 2002 in New Hampshire.

"I am saddened to learn that this action has been taken against me," James Tobin said Wednesday in a statement. "I have great respect for the justice system and plan to fight back to clear my name."

New Hampshire Democrats, who have filed a lawsuit over the jamming, had accused Tobin in October of involvement in the jamming. Tobin, 44, stepped down Oct. 15, but denied involvement at the time.

Los Alamos management: Stung by security lapses at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the government will consider business and management ability as much as scientific expertise when selecting a new manager for the facility.

Los Alamos has been managed by the University of California since the lab's creation as a top-secret World War II project to develop the atomic bomb. But problems including missing computer drives and sloppy facility procedures, led the department for the first time to call for an open bidding process last year.

Robert Blake trial: A jury of seven men and five women was selected Wednesday to decide whether actor Robert Blake murdered his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley.

The panel was selected and sworn in after a prosecutor and defense attorney used numerous challenges to remove potential jurors from the jury box. They did not have to state a reason for the peremptory challenges. Six alternate jurors, three women and three men, also were chosen.

The panel was ordered to return Monday morning for opening statements.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

'They've got to do what they've got to do'

Some 66th Transportation Company families shaken, but others prepared for GI's extended deployment in Iraq

BY BEN MURRAY
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Christmas will come in March for Ann Rieger and her four daughters.

The family had already put off the event until January, but now they'll have to wait until early spring.

"I already told the kids we're not having Christmas until Dad comes home," Rieger said.

The Riegers are among the families waiting for members of the 66th Transportation Company to return to Germany after the unit's yearlong deployment to Iraq. But Army officials announced Wednesday that those 156 soldiers are among thousands of troops being extended

"I already told the kids we're not having Christmas until Dad comes home."

Ann Rieger

wife of deployed soldier

downrange for 60 days to bolster U.S. forces for Iraq's Jan. 30 elections. The 66th is the only Europe-based unit to be extended.

Family members were told of the extension Wednesday at a meeting at Kiebel Casern. Under the DOD plan, the unit will spend 33 of those 60 days at its current location, Forward Operating Base Speicher, north of Baghdad.

"They're saying on the 5th of March, they'll start convoying down to [Kuwait], and then they think it could take up to two weeks," to process out of the staging area, Col. Susan Sowers, commander of the 37th Transportation Command, told about 15 wives and several children at Wednesday's meeting.

"In my mind, it looks like the third week in March, we could start to see our folks coming home," she said.

While the news visibly shook some, many said they were prepared for the extension after hearing about it from their husbands.

"It's hard news, but they've got to do what they've got to do," said Marlene Sanchez, whose husband, Spc. Edward

Sanchez, is a truck driver. Sanchez said she spoke with her husband Tuesday, when he warned her of the possibility of extension.

Others took the news harder.

"I was so upset I was shaking," said U-rike Reinhardt, a mother of three whose husband is Sgt. Philip Brown. She said the delay of her husband's unit — which suffered two deaths in an attack in August and has had 11 troops wounded — also means an extension of her apprehension.

"It's more days on the road, more targets for bombs," Reinhardt said. "More days of anxiety for me."

Army officials had a dozen support personnel on hand Wednesday to offer legal, logistical and emotional assistance to family members. Questions from the spouses generally revolved around paperwork, payment and power of attorney details associated with the delay.

One detail that irked family members about the extension is that it does not start until Jan. 31, 2005 — a week after the company's one-year anniversary at Forward Operating Base Speicher.

"What they're doing now, they're saying, 'You came in January, the end of January is your time,'" Sowers said. "They would say the one year mark is 31 January, that's the math that they're using downrange."

Sowers said that pushing the extension's start date past the one-year mark is a move by the Army to get a few extra days out of an experienced unit.

"They're trying to take some days where they can get some," she said.

No matter how long it takes for the 66th to come home, however, Rieger said her children are all right with waiting for Christmas if it means they can celebrate it with their father.

"They know how important it is to have that," she said.

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BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

During a meeting Wednesday at Kiebel Casern in Kaiserslautern, Germany, Col. Susan Sowers, commander of the 37th Transportation Command, informs family members of the 66th Transportation Company that the unit has received a two-month deployment extension in central Iraq.

Europe-based federal civilian employees to get allowance boost

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

Federal civilian employees living in Europe will soon see a bump in their post allowance and living-quarters allowance, the U.S. State Department announced this week.

The post allowance — similar to the military's cost-of-living adjustment — paid to federal civilian employees living in Germany, for example, was increased by 20 percent and became effective Nov. 28.

The post allowance, which takes into account the price of goods and services purchased off-base, was increased largely due to the dollar's slide against the euro, according to an official at the State Department, which calculates the allowances for overseas civilians. One euro currently costs about \$1.33. Euros are used to buy goods and services in most European countries.

As a result of the rate increase, a government civilian living in Germany who

earns \$42,000-\$45,000 a year will see his annual stipend go from \$6,475 to \$7,770, or about \$50 every two weeks.

Especially hard hit by the dollar's decline have been those who do not receive a living-quarters allowance — commonly called a housing allowance — such as people hired locally, who have to pay their rent and utilities out of pocket.

They include Brett Harwood, artistic director of the Kelley Theater in Stuttgart, Germany. He goes to the bank every month to buy 1,200 euros to pay his rent. Back in April, when one euro cost about \$1.20, that meant spending \$1,440; this

"It doesn't feel in any way like the post allowance covers the amount you put out for rent alone, let alone food."

Brett Harwood

artistic director of the Kelley Theater in Stuttgart, Germany

month Harwood's rent will be closer to \$1,600.

"It doesn't feel in any way like the post allowance covers the amount you put out for rent alone, let alone food," Harwood said. "It makes going out to a nice restaurant a thing of the past."

Andy Rivera, adjunct for the 6th Area Support Group, also doesn't receive a housing allowance.

"It's a challenge," Rivera said. "I'm fortunate in that I'm debt-free. My car is paid off and I don't have outstanding loans [I'm] one of those lucky people who doesn't have to worry about living paycheck to paycheck."

"But not long ago, when I had car pay-

ment and other stuff to pay, I would monitor that stuff. You start looking for where the money comes from."

Affecting the allowance are the cost of goods and services outside of a base as compared with the cost of similar goods and services in Washington, D.C. Accessibility to on-base shopping is also a factor, according to the State Department official.

Employees who receive living-quarters allowances, though, got some relief with an increase, also effective Nov. 28, in that stipend. A Heidelberg, Germany-based civilian employee with a family, for example, would see an annual increase in LQA from \$38,700 to \$39,700.

The increase in civilian allowances came days after it was announced that U.S. troops living in Europe would see a 31 percent increase in their cost-of-living allowance.

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AF tries to better integrate active, reserve units

By LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force announced six new U.S.-based initiatives Wednesday that will give the Air Force faster access to skilled personnel in wartime and eventually reduce the number of deployments for airmen, service officials said.

Dubbed "Future Total Force," the actions will involve active, reserve and Air National Guard units in Arizona, Vermont, Virginia, Utah, Texas and Nevada, but not overseas installations or deployed airmen, according to Air Force spokesman Kent, Robert Roberts.

But "if these initiatives work, they will reduce the need for mobilizations down the

road," Roberts said in a Wednesday telephone interview.

However, reducing deployments "is a secondary effect," not the principal reason we're doing this," according to Lt. Gen. Stephen Wood, the Air Force's Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs.

Instead, service officials are making the changes "so that the Air Force can have a greater capability to be a full partner in a joint warfighting team," Wood said Wednesday.

The initiatives focus on mixing active-duty with reserve personnel, who in the Air Force tend to stay in their units for long periods of time, officials said.

The low turnover rates in the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard meant many of the service's most senior fliers

and other personnel are in the reserve components, not the active wings.

The point of many of the initiatives is to test whether mixing the reserve and active communities more will help "rebalance" these experience levels, Wood said.

Deployments would be eventually be reduced because once reserve and active units are better integrated, with the help of new technologies the Air Force would have more of an ability to "reach back" and tap the expertise of reservists on a more regular basis, "without putting them through the pressures or the stress of the mobilization process," Wood said.

The initiatives include the integration of a reserve wing, Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing in Richmond, Va., with an active-duty 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base, Va., to fly the

new F/A-22 fighter jet; stationing active-duty personnel with Vermont's 158th Fighter Wing; and combining the Air Force Reserve's 49th Fighter Wing with the active duty's 388th Fighter Wing, both of which are at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and fly the F-16 fighter.

The other efforts include allowing members of the Texas and Arizona Air National Guards to operate the Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), which units now have been the province of active-duty units; working with the Army to build and operate a new Distributed Ground Station facility in western New York to process global intelligence information and integrating reserve personnel into all missions performed at the Air Force Center at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

Curator of 1st AD museum brings it into digital future

By TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — As the battlefield has shifted from Concord to the latest anti-insurgencies, military museums and their curators have been there to document it all. At the 1st Airborne Division Museum in Baumholder, new curator Steve Ruhnke is writing the next chapter in the division's history.

Writing, though, isn't exactly the term — more like digitizing the future.

Ruhnke hopes to open the Operation Iraqi Freedom gallery next spring, with some new twists on old Army traditions. Instead of the soldier's letter home, 1st AD soldiers already have donated digital material including video clips and still photos that will help tell the story of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the division's second deployment to Iraq since it moved to Germany in 1971.

One of the more unusual donations is an audio recording of the crew of an M-3A2 Bradley fighting vehicle in combat during the conventional ground war phase of the Iraq war, Ruhnke said.

One soldier donated a digital copy of his diary.

"What's kind of hard is that sometimes we don't see the historical significance today," Ruhnke said. But 100 years from now, historians will come to the museum searching for keys to understanding 21st-century military life just as they came to him at the cavalry museum, trying to piece together disparate pictures of the early days of the U.S. military.

Another complication is that curators have different standards than laymen for what they believe will be of interest to future generations.

"Ask him the difference between a 'war trophy' and an 'artifact,'" said Col. Michael Bigelow in a phone interview from the

U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C., where he's executive director.

What he doesn't need is one more AK-47 or even an old Iraqi tank found on the side of the road, Ruhnke said. What he does seek are artifacts — American and Iraqi — with documented provenance to specific units, specific places and specific battles that help document the 1st AD's role in OIF.

Ruhnke arrived in May as the new curator, replacing Dan Petersen, who transferred to the 101st Airborne Division Museum at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Ruhnke, a native of Junction City, Kan., has a degree in archaeology and anthropology from Kansas State University. Before coming to Germany, he had been an assistant curator and exhibit specialist at the U.S. Cavalry Museum at Fort Riley, Kan., for 20 years.

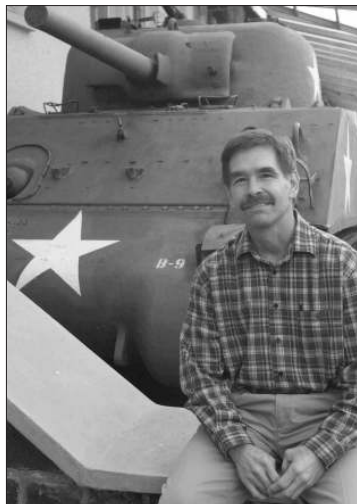
An authority on American cavalry units and figures from his years at Fort Riley, Ruhnke says his new challenge is to get up to speed on the 1st AD.

His museum has a number of significant pieces including examples of some of the rarest American tanks and self-propelled howitzers, including a pre-World War II M2A3 Stuart tank.

"That one here came from Hanau at Marston," possibly an obsolete weapon the United States sold after World War II, Ruhnke said.

In addition to a dozen tanks, haltrucks and howitzers, about 10,000 visitors annually see more than 3,500 items ranging from American, Russian and Iraqi infantry weapons to vintage motorcycles, and may seek access to thousands of documents.

To tell the 1st AD's contemporary story, the Baumholder museum will add more modern interactive displays — such as allowing visitors to select from a number



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Steve Ruhnke is spending a lot of time around old tanks as he makes the transition from an exhibit specialist at the cavalry museum at Fort Riley, Kan., to head curator at the 1st Airborne Division museum. But at Baumholder, the future is digital, Ruhnke says.

of audio and video clips — to its static displays of uniforms, weapons and, of course, armor through 60 years, Ruhnke said. In addition, he'd like to do more temporary exhibits highlighting the histories of different 1st AD battalions.

However, the museum is, along with Baumholder itself, on the bubble as the Pentagon plans to relocate the two forward-based divisions, the 1st AD and the Würzburg-based 1st Infantry Division back to the United States.

The 1st AD museum is one of perhaps 50 military museums under the Center of Military History, Bigelow said. There are museums for most branches, such as the Patton Museum at Fort Knox, Ky., for armor and the cavalry

museum at Fort Riley, down to the regimental level, he said. Changes over the next decade, including plans to restructure forces overseas and the opening of the National Museum of the United States Army, schedule for 2009, will lead to changes at some military museums.

But most will survive, Bigelow said. The national museum is for honor and remembrance, while museums for divisions and branches, such as the 1st AD museum, are for training, education and outreach, he said.

"We try to put such museums where there is the greatest number of soldiers, but when soldiers move, sometimes there isn't a place to relocate."

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3rd ID loads up

The Army's 3rd Infantry Division is loading up two of the Military Sealift Command's largest ships for its upcoming deployment to Iraq.

The Fort Stewart, Ga.-based division's gear is being loaded onto the USNS Sister and USNS Seay at the port in Savannah, Ga. The equipment includes nearly 2,250 wheeled and tracked vehicles, 40 helicopters and more than 300 containers of equipment.

The 3rd ID was one of the lead units in the ground offensive for Operation Iraqi Freedom and is expected to return to Iraq for its second rotation over the next few months. It is also one of the Army's newly updated divisions with four "modular" brigades instead of three.

Two of the brigades, according to an Army news release, will deploy this winter under the command of the 42nd Infantry Division in north-central Iraq. The remainder of the division will deploy soon after with a Louisiana Air National Guard unit to a different part of Iraq.

Military Sealift Command operates more than 110 noncombatant, civilian-crewed ships and moves 95 percent of the military equipment and supplies used by deployed U.S. forces.

U.S. Navy patrol rescue

A U.S. Navy patrol aircraft helped rescue eight United Arab Emirates fishermen whose small boat sank off the coast of Bahrain.

A P-3C Orion from the Persian Gulf 9 — along with a pair of Bahrain police helicopters — immediately responded to a distress call and searched for the fishermen on Nov. 27. The Navy's 5th Fleet reported. The patrol and reconnaissance aircraft searched an area of 60 to 70 square miles for the shore, according to Lt. j.g. Brian Hirth, the P-3C Orion tactical coordinator. A helicopter plucked the remaining fishermen from the water.

The Navy plane helped coordinate the rescue among Bahrain air traffic control, two Bahrain police helicopters and a Qatari helicopter.

Patrol Squadron 9 is deployed to the Persian Gulf region from its home base in Hawaii.

From staff reports

Free phone calls

Sailors, Marines and U.S. Coast Guard personnel deployed aboard ships will be able to phone home for free during the holidays.

The Navy Exchange Service Command and AT&T are providing \$10 prepaid phone cards to ships under way this month.

The Navy Exchange will pass out about 21,000 cards during the holiday season, the Navy Exchange Service Command announced this week.

Thirty various ships out to sea with AT&T Direct Ocean Service will get the cards.

"It's our way of saying thank you to all the men and women who are serving our country," Jennie Virden, a Navy Exchange personal telecommunication specialist, said in a statement.

Blue Angels reach

The Navy's flight demonstration squadron, the Blue Angels, is looking for enlisted sailors to join the team for the 2006 season.

The application deadline is April 1, 2005, according to a November Navy memo sent to the fleet. The normal tour length is 36 months.

Applicants must meet a list of requirements to be accepted. For example, sailors must have a spotless record and have no physical readiness test or body fat failures in the last 36 months.

Interested candidates also must receive their command's endorsement to be considered.

Selection results will be announced June 2005. Those selected will leave their current command in October and report to the squadron in November.

The flight demonstration team performs in air shows across the United States annually and is based in Pensacola, Fla.

For more information, click on NAVADMIN 261/04 online at <http://www.persnav.navy.mil/navadmin/navad04.html>

From staff reports

Units receive Hollywood delivery

'Operation: Take a Soldier to the Movies' sends movies, snacks to deployed troops

By RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

Bernard Hintzke and his wife Kathy long ago started a tradition of taking their four sons to the movies on Thanksgiving.

With his youngest son, Spc. Adam Hintzke, deployed to Iraq with the 601st Aviation Support Battalion, the father decided that this year he would send the movie to Adam to keep the Thanksgiving tradition alive.

That simple plan has grown into putting movies into the hands of troops from about 10 Army and Marine units downrange.

With Operation: Take a Soldier to the Movies, Bernard Hintzke and his support team have sent more than 1,600 movies to soldiers and Marines deployed to Iraq.

"To date, we have been able to put together movie packages for every unit that has contacted us and asked to be included in the project," Hintzke wrote in an e-mail. "The number of movie packages sent to the troops to date is 1,680. A little idea that started with our son who is in Iraq has grown to this. We now have someone representing Operation: Take a Soldier to the Movies at Fort Hood, Texas."

He and his team of volunteers in West Allis, Wis., turned to members of their community for donations of movies and snacks.

"We had hoped that the people in our area would like to help again like they did for the 1st Infantry Division Christmas in July project, by sending a movie package to the troops on Thanksgiving Day as a way of saying 'thank you for your service to our country,'" Bernard Hintzke wrote.

But Kathy Hintzke's cousin, who works in a public relations firm, created the organization's Web site (www.soldiertomovies.org) and sent a press release to national media sources.

The organization now gets donations from people and schools all over the United States, the father wrote.

He collects movies, snacks and the popcorn



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

Capt. Mellanie Merritt, 601st Aviation Support Battalion rear detachment commander, speaks with Sgt. William Rigby, 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cavalry Regiment, on Nov. 24 at Würzburg Hospital's Victory Ward. Movies and snacks were delivered to injured 1st Infantry Division soldiers the hospital as part of the Operation: Take a Soldier to the Movies program.

boxes in which they are distributed, and sends them to the 601st Aviation Support Battalion rear detachment, based in Katterbach, Germany, according to Capt. Mellanie Merritt, rear detachment commander.

Other donations come directly from people who have visited the Web site.

"At least one day a week, I pick up about 150 boxes from the post office," said Pam Lindenmeyer, from the unit's PRG, who spearheads packing the boxes to be sent downrange. "[Other] days we get 10 boxes, some days it will be 50.

"We pick them up every day to make things easier on the post office, and if we are sending out more than four large boxes we call them ahead of time to see if it's OK to send them all at once."

Lindenmeyer and volunteers from the Katterbach community assemble the popcorn boxes and pack them with movies and snacks to send downrange.

"We've taken care of the 601st, because that is who the program was started for," Merritt said. "So many other units have come forward and asked for the movies, too, that we are keeping pretty busy. This is a huge operation, and we've had a lot of support from our volunteers."

Merritt and others from the Family Readiness Group also delivered movie packages to injured troops at Victory Ward at Würzburg hospital. Some packages also went to wounded troops at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Some of the donors send movies and snacks for the packages, but nearly all send letters accompanying their donation, Merritt said.

"These are really high-quality, top-notch movies that people are sending," Merritt said.

"But the coolest piece of it all is the letters that people send to the soldiers. We have to go through all of this and package everything, and we read the letters from the people thanking the soldiers for their service to our country, and it really tugs at the heartstrings."

And the soldiers appreciate the support.

"My husband [Maj. Victor Lindenmeyer, commander, Company A, 601st ASB] called me on Thanksgiving and said this was the highest boost in morale all year," Lindenmeyer said. "He's a very tough guy, and there was so much emotion in his voice. The guys all missed home, it was Thanksgiving."

"This wasn't just 10 guys getting a package; everyone in the company got one. Some of the guys were upset because there was no return address to write a letter of thanks, but they appreciated the support — like somebody on 4 Apple Lane thought about you today."

E-mail Rick Emert at emert@mail.strips.esd.mil

How to donate

Items to donate: new or used DVD movies, microwave popcorn, packets of pre-sweetened drink mixes and assortments of movie theater-style candy. A letter or photo can also be included.

Mail to:

Operation: Take a Soldier to the Movies
Pam Lindenmeyer
C/O 601st ASB
CMR 454 Box 2326
APO AE 98250



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

From left, David Schnibben, Jake Moffatt, Greg Meyers and Graham Young mug for the camera during a birthday party for Greg on Wednesday at the new Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center on Panzer Casern in Stuttgart, Germany. The center hosted 56 parties during November, its first month in business.

Stuttgart's new bowling facility a booming success

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Business is booming at the new Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center.

"We had 56 parties during the month of November," said Stacie Mathis, the facility manager. "This is what Stuttgart has been looking for. It's the only place to have parties for children without doing it at home."

The 24-lane facility on Panzer Casern opened Nov. 5. Half of the facility includes a bar and slot machines and caters to adults. The other half features a playground and video arcade and caters to children. That way, parents and children can keep an eye on each other.

Kids' party packages cost \$6.50 to \$11.95 per child, depending on extras, and include bowling, pizza and invitations.

"Just bring the cake and children," Mathis said. For serious bowlers such as Patch High School junior Derrick Hamilton, 17, there are lockers for rent to store balls and equipment.

Hamilton, who said he carries a 196 average, said the lanes are much better than those at the nearby Kelley Barracks bowling alley, which recently closed and is going to be torn down.

The atmosphere is better, too.

"When you take a break from bowling, this is a good place to kick back and relax and watch SportsCenter or the ballgame that's on," Hamilton said.

"It's a good family center," said Stephanie Meyers, wife of Cmdr. Brian Meyers of the U.S. European Command and mother of four. "There are few places here where you can have your children go and feel like they are in a safe environment and having wholesome fun."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.strips.esd.mil

Big bonuses drawing more Marine e-mails

BY TONY PERRY
Los Angeles Times

SAN DIEGO — With the prospect of continued fighting in Iraq, the Marine Corps is offering bonuses of as much as \$30,000 — in some cases, tax-free — to persuade enlisted personnel with combat experience and training to re-enlist.

The pay is working, officials said. Fewer than two months into the fiscal year, Marine re-enlistment rates in several key specialties are running 10 percent to 30 percent ahead of last year.

Officials are confident that, by midyear, they will have reached their target for encouraging re-enlistment among riflemen, the "grunts" who are key to the Marines' ability to mount offensives against insurgent strongholds such as Fallujah, Iraq.

In most cases, the young Marines are agreeing to stay in their current jobs for four years. In others, they are allowed to transfer into jobs that the brass considers equally vital: recruiters, embassy guards and boot camp drill instructors.

"No amount of money is too much to retain combat experience in the corps, rather than starting over," said Maj. Mark Menotti, assistant head of enlisted retention for the Marine Corps.

Giving bonuses to encourage Marines to re-enlist is not a new program. But this year's bonus schedule marks the first time that "combat arms" specialties have received the largest of the bonuses.

A year ago, the top bonus for a grunt was about \$7,000.

Along with riflemen, machine-gunners, and mortar-men, specialties also receiving sizable

Lafayette, Tenn., a rifleman, said that he had planned to re-enlist even without the bonus, but that the \$28,039 "helped my wife to agree to me re-enlisting."

In an e-mail from Iraq, McBroom said he plans to put 40 percent of the bonus in a mutual fund, 30 percent in an account for his children's college, 15 percent in savings and the remaining 15 percent for "a nice wedding ring for the wife, finally."

to retain specialties such as aviation and law — are not eligible for bonuses.

The amount of the individual bonus is determined by a formula involving the length of re-enlistment, how early the Marine makes the commitment to re-enlist and a multiplier determined by the commandant of the Marine Corps.

Among other things, the multiplier involves a statistical analysis

For grunts, the bonuses are also a sign of recognition. Cpl. Steven Forrester, 22, a machine-gunner from Centerville, Tenn., said he was "glad they finally realized our job is dangerous." He received \$22,796.

Cpl. William Stoffers, 22, a machine-gunner from Redding, Calif., said the size of the bonus for his specialty was a pleasant surprise. "I was hoping to have this amount because we are put through more stressful things than a normal Marine," Stoffers, who is in Iraq, e-mailed; his total was \$21,000.

Among combat veterans, there is a sense that they are being paid for having learned things that cannot be taught at the school of infantry. Many are eager to pass that knowledge to others.

Cpl. William Jones, 22, of Tulsa, Okla., a rifleman, received a bonus of \$19,900 and now wants to teach Navy medical corpsmen how to handle combat. "The more Marines we have here, the better off the corps is going to be," he said. "It's going to cost money, but it will save lives."

Sgt. Deverson Lochard, 23, from Lakeville, Mass., a machine-gunner who received a bonus of \$23,000, wants to become a drill instructor and, once he becomes a U.S. citizen, an officer.

"No amount of money is too much to retain combat experience in the corps, rather than starting over."

Maj. Mark Menotti

U.S. Marine Corps assistant head of enlisted retention

bonuses are those critical to success in Iraq — including intelligence officers and Arabic linguists.

Lance Cpl. Matthew Jee, 21, of Borrego Springs, Calif., received a bonus of \$19,000 to re-enlist for four years. An assault-man with expertise in firing the Javelin rocket, he plans to shift to the intelligence field.

"They need a grunt's view of what kind of intelligence you need when you're out there on the street," Jee said at Camp Pendleton, where he recently returned after seven months in Iraq.

Sgt. Joey W. McBroom, 30, of

Another rifleman, Cpl. Anthony Mazzola, 23, of Fort Worth, Texas, has more immediate plans for his \$21,700: "I plan to take all of my money to Vegas and have a crazy wedding," he e-mailed from Iraq.

The Marine Corps has earmarked \$52 million in bonuses for the fiscal year that started Oct. 1, up from \$51 million in 2004.

Two-thirds of the bonus money will go for Marines re-enlisting for a second hitch. One-third will go to enlisted Marines signing up for a third or fourth tour. Officers — except in particularly difficult

sis of how much money will be needed to ensure that enough Marines re-enlist in a particular specialty.

Take, for example, a sergeant trained in tank warfare. If the sergeant re-enlists for four years, his bonus is determined by multiplying his monthly pay — \$1,817 — by four. That figure then is multiplied by four, a rate set by Marine officials for his skill.

The highest skill multiplier is

five. For the sergeant, the bonus computes to \$29,072. If he re-enlists while in Iraq, his bonus, like his regular pay, is tax-exempt.

Stripes begins printing in Afghanistan

BY PATRICK DICKSON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Stars and Stripes began printing newspapers in Afghanistan on Thursday, starting with a daily print run of 1,380 papers, and may expand its circulation after more tests are done.

The change means servicemen serving in Afghanistan will be seeing much fresher news

— papers had seen delays of up to three weeks in the previous distribution system.

Stripes had been shipping newspapers to Afghanistan from its presses in Germany via Bahrain, where, at best, papers would take five days to get to Kabul, and often much longer to reach outlying areas through the military supply system.

Stripes Publisher Tom Kelsch sees it as a significant improve-

ment for servicemen there, and for the organization.

"For Stripes, it means we're better able to accomplish our mission to serve those servicemen [deployed to Afghanistan]," Kelsch said.

The paper will be delivered daily in Kabul, Kandahar, Camp Phoenix (near Kabul) and Bagram Air Base. Papers will also be distributed via the military postal system to 10 other

posts.

Readers will now be receiving the Middle East edition in Stripes, currently being tailored to audiences in Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar, rather than the Europe editions. Also included will be Sunday comics, which are actually in the Saturday edition.

Stripes currently prints about 60,000 copies of its Middle East edition at print sites in Baghdad, Kuwait, and Qatar.

Pilot safely ejects

PENSACOLA, Fla. — A Blue Angels pilot safely ejected before his jet crashed into the Gulf of Mexico during a training flight Wednesday, a spokesman for the Navy precision flying team said.

The F/A-18 Hornet went down about a mile off Perdido Key, a barrier island on the Florida-Alabama border, and 10 miles from Pensacola Naval Air Station, where the Blue Angels are headquartered.

A rescue team pulled the pilot from the 62-degree water about 10 minutes after the crash. His identity was being withheld pending notification of his family, Blue Angels spokesman Lt. Garrett Kasper said.

The cause of the crash was under investigation.

Cheney in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney will travel to Afghanistan to attend the inauguration Tuesday of Hamid Karzai as Afghanistan's first directly elected president.

Cheney will also meet with Karzai and other government officials, and will thank U.S. and other troops serving there, the White House announced on Tuesday.

Thousands of U.S. soldiers are preparing an operation against Taliban insurgents to pre-empt an expected spring offensive which could upset plans for Afghan parliamentary elections.

From The Associated Press

Biologists worry about rise in right whale deaths

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The second death of a pregnant right whale this year by a ship is prompting calls by biologists to change sea lanes and set speed limits in the mid-Atlantic to protect the critically endangered species.

Northern right whales were overhunted in the 19th and 20th centuries. Only about 300 are thought to exist.

"At the rate we're killing them off, we're really looking down the curve at extinction," said Scott Kraus, vice president for research at the New England Aquarium in Boston.

Right whales travel through the Gulf of Maine each year as they migrate between their winter grounds off the southeastern United States and their summer feeding grounds in the Bay of Fundy.

The National Marine Fisheries Service is weighing new rules,

such as speed limits, for ships entering and leaving East Coast ports to reduce collisions with whales.

Researchers, however, are encouraging the federal government, commercial shipping lines and the Navy to talk about what could be done immediately.

A recreational boater reported seeing an injured whale in the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay the week before Thanksgiving. He called the stranding team at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach, saying that the tail was almost sliced off and the animal was bleeding profusely. The carcass washed ashore in Ocean Sands, N.C., a week ago.

Susan Barco, stranding program coordinator, examined the carcass with other scientists, and conducted a necropsy.

"It was a typical necropsy until we found the fetus," Barco told



In this aerial photo released by the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, the carcass of a pregnant northern right whale washes up on the beach at Ocean Sands, N.C., on Nov. 24.

The Virginian-Pilot.

The same team had necropsied a pregnant right whale in February near Oregon Inlet, N.C., also killed by a ship.

The mid-Atlantic does not have protection measures similar to those in the South and Northeast. Marine biologists say they are needed, though.

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Mortar rounds hit Baghdad

U.S. Embassy tells workers they can't use airport road

BY NICK WADHAMS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents killed an American soldier in the restive city of Mosul and mortar strikes pummeled central Baghdad on Thursday, while the U.S. Embassy barred employees from the highway leading to the airport after failing to stop attackers from targeting foreigners who travel the dangerous road.

Despite the continued violence, a top Iraqi official insisted the security situation had improved since U.S. forces scattered insurgents in the Sunni city of Fallujah last month in preparation for elections set for Jan. 30.

The U.S. government has announced it is raising troop strength in Iraq to its highest level of the war to secure the election.

While Iraq's Kurds and majority Shiites back the elections, Sunni groups have demanded a postponement because of the poor security. President George W. Bush dismissed those calls Thursday, insisting that Iraq's elections must not be delayed.

The American soldier was on a U.S. Iraqi patrol in eastern Mosul when the attack occurred, Lt. Col. Paul Hastings said. He said two Iraqi commandos were also wounded.

Hastings also said Iraqi and U.S. forces discovered 14 more unidentified bodies in different areas in Mosul on Thursday. He said there were also reports of five more bodies picked up by family members. That brings to at least 66 the number of bodies — many of them believed members of the Iraqi security forces — since Nov. 18.

Mosul's police force disintegrated during an insurgent uprising last month, forcing the U.S. command to divert troops from the offensive in Fallujah.

A witness in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city with about 1 million people, said he saw three bodies dumped in a western neighborhood, two of them with notes tucked in their undershirts that identified them as members of the Iraqi National Guard. They had several gunshot wounds to their heads and bodies. Insurgents have repeatedly targeted Iraqi police and soldiers, who are seen as cooperating with U.S. forces.

Also Thursday, attackers launched at least five mortars in central Baghdad, including two that crashed into the Green Zone, the compound that houses Iraq's interim administration and U.S. diplomatic missions.

One round struck near a mobile phone office in Baghdad's Ararat neighborhood, killing two civilians and wounding five, U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. James Hutton said.

U.S. forces have been helpless to stop insurgents from firing mortars into the heavily fortified area, a sharp reminder of how efforts to calm to the country ahead of the elections have been frustrated.

U.S. senators visiting Iraq on

Thursday said they were pleased with President Bush's decision with the airport road.

"We should have leveled with the American people in the beginning," Sen. Joseph Biden, a Democrat from Delaware, told reporters. "It was absolutely inevitable"

that more troops would be needed.

A symbol of the Americans' struggle to restore security has been the airport highway. Attackers using car bombs and explosives have stymied U.S. efforts to protect the road, one of the country's most crucial yet also one of its most perilous.



A column of smoke rises after several mortar rounds exploded in Baghdad on Thursday, including two in the Green Zone. At least one person was killed.

AP



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U.S. force in Iraq growing to highest level of war

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the insurgency still a threat to Iraq's planned elections, the U.S. force is about to expand to its highest level of the war — even higher than the initial invading force in March 2003.

The force will grow from 138,000 today to about 150,000 by mid-January, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

Extra troops are needed to bolster security before the national elections scheduled for Jan. 30. The increase in troop strength

also underscores the fact that, despite enormous effort and cost, American commanders have yet to train and equip enough Iraqis for security duty.

Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, deputy commander of Central Command, which is responsible for U.S. military operations throughout the Middle East, told reporters at the Pentagon last month that the insurgents have managed to intimidate many Iraqis into not cooperating with the Americans.

The expansion of the U.S. force also recalls assertions made by some Bush administration officials when the invasion was

launched that although stabilizing the country would not be easy or cheap, it certainly would not require more U.S. troops than it took to topple Baghdad.

As it turns out, the post-invasion period has been far costlier in blood and treasure than almost anyone predicted. When President Bush declared major combat operations were over May 1, 2003, the United States had about 148,000 troops in Iraq — slightly more than when the war began two months earlier and more than were there when Baghdad fell in early April.

The Pentagon said Wednesday that De-

fense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld approved a plan to send 15,000 soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C., to Iraq this month and to extend by 60 days the combat tours of about 10,400 soldiers and Marines in Iraq who were to come home in January.

The 12,000-troop increase is to last only until March, but it says much about the strength and resiliency of an insurgency that U.S. military planners did not foresee even a year ago, when they were focused on capturing deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,256 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 984 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one lower than the Defense Department's tally.

It's not unusual for the figures to differ slightly from day to day.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,118 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 875 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

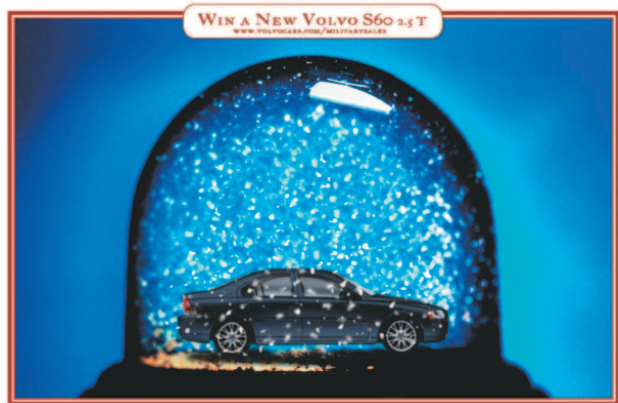
■ Army Spc. Sergio R. Diazvarela, 21, Lomita, Calif.; died Nov. 24 in Ramadi, Iraq, when a bomb detonated near his patrol, assigned to 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Camp Howze, Korea.

■ Army Spc. Christian P. Engelstrom, 39, New York; died Monday in Baghdad, Iraq, when his vehicle struck a bomb, assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, New York.

■ Army Pfc. Wilfredo F. Urbina, 29, Baldwin, N.Y.; died Monday in Baghdad, Iraq, when his vehicle struck a bomb, assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, New York.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Blake A. Magaosa, 20, Pearl City, Hawaii; killed Monday in Iraq's Anbar province, assigned to 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Army Sgt. Michael A. Smith, 24, Camden, Ark.; died Friday at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., from injuries received in Baghdad, Iraq, on Nov. 7 from small arms fire, assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, Texarkana, Ark.



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Marines proud of Fallujah service

By KATARINA KRATOCH

The Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Maj. Rich Bourgeois says the image of a young Navy medical corpsman rushing to aid a mortally wounded Marine in Fallujah's notorious Jolan district will be forever imprinted in his mind.

"In the middle of a firefight, his left leg blown off and just the femur sticking out," recounts Bourgeois, 41, of Malden, Mass. "And the young corpsman ran to his side, oblivious to the battle, applying the tourniquet."

More than 50 Marines have died since the Fallujah attack began Nov. 8, and skirmishes still take place in the city. Yet for some Marines, their performance in one of the major battles of the Iraq conflict is a source of pride.

"Fallujah is going to be right up there among the most successful battles in Iraq," said Maj. Tom Davis, 45, of St. Cloud, Minn. "It's where the rubber meets the road. That is where our heroes did their best."

Fighting in Fallujah and elsewhere in Iraq made November one of the bloodiest months for American forces since the war began in March 2003. At least 135 U.S. troops died in November — the same number as last April, which had been the deadliest month of the conflict.

"Fallujah has been a life-changing event for many of the Marines, fighting in an environment that is just unfathomable to anyone outside," said Bourgeois, an explosives expert who retired from active duty two years ago but was recalled this year.

During the Fallujah battle, he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment to study enemy tactics and techniques.

Although the fighting was brutal, Bourgeois believes the Marines' morale was reinforced when they found evidence of atrocities committed by insurgents — including emaciated hostages chained to the wall and bodies of those killed execution-style.

"When we saw what the enemy did, what they were capable of doing, we were very more eager to do away with this pure evil," Bourgeois added. "Regardless of how many pockets of resistance are still out there, it will not sway our morale. Nothing can."

First Lt. Lyle Gilbert, a spokesman for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said the morale is high in Fallujah — despite the ongoing firefights.

Sgt. Wayne Doyle, 33, of New-Sgt, N.Y., said he naturally misses home.

"But I'd much rather be here with my Marines," he said. "And I do Fallujah all over again."

RESTAURANT GUIDE



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IN THE STATES

Bush taps Johanns for agriculture

BY DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Thursday selected Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns, a Republican attorney who grew up on an Iowa dairy farm, as secretary of Agriculture to oversee the nation's farm and food programs.

Bush said Johanns was "an experienced public servant from America's agricultural heartland" with a long record of being "a faithful friend to America's farmers and ranchers."

Johanns, 54, would succeed Ann M. Veneman, who recently announced her resignation despite saying earlier that she wanted to stay.

So far, seven of Bush's 15-member Cabinet have announced they won't be part of the second term. More are expected, and administration officials say Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson appears to be next.

Bush announced his intention to nominate the two-term governor to the Roosevelt Room of the

White House.

The nomination, which requires Senate confirmation, reflects the administration's desire to focus heavily on farm trade over the next four years.

As his wife Stephanie looked on, Johanns thanked Bush for inviting him to serve, saying, "I have enormous respect for you."

"I look forward to advancing your rural agenda for the 21st century," Johanns said.

Born in Iowa and raised on a dairy farm, Johanns became a lawyer and served in county and city government before becoming mayor of Lincoln, Neb., in 1991. He won the governor's office in 1998 and in 2002 became the first Republican to win re-election in more than four decades.

"I'm very, very proud of my ag

background," he said. "I do feel that those years on that dairy farm did much to define who I am as a person," Johanns said.

As governor, Johanns led a delegation of Nebraska's farm and business leaders on a trade mission to Japan, Taiwan, China, Singapore and a half dozen other countries.

Bush said that in his second term, he would put a high priority on helping farm families, including keeping taxes low and working to repeal the estate tax.

Bush praised Veneman, saying she had done a good job in dealing with agricultural issues, including fighting hunger, improvements in school nutrition programs, protecting forests and leading efforts "to prevent the spread of mad cow disease" when the nation's first case was reported a year ago.

Veneman presided during a period of unprecedented wariness about the safety of the nation's food supply. Weeks after taking office in 2001, an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Europe prompted Veneman to increase inspections and testing to prevent its arrival in the United States.



Johanns

The remaining Cabinet members

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A look at who's left in President Bush's Cabinet and their prospects for staying on in the next term:

■ **Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld:** Rumsfeld, 71, has not disclosed whether he intends to stay, but his aides have said repeatedly they have no indication he'll leave. They also said this week Rumsfeld had not discussed his future with the president. It is widely believed among Pentagon officials that Rumsfeld wants to remain, at least temporarily, to steer the military further in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to continue his efforts to fundamentally change the way the Defense Department operates.

■ **Treasury Secretary John Snow:** Snow, 65, a former chief at railroad giant CSX with a Ph.D. in economics, took over the Treasury Department in February. The White House recently called Snow a valuable member of the economics team but hasn't said whether it intends to keep him.

■ **Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta:** Mineta, 73, the only Democrat in Bush's Cabinet, doesn't plan to step down in the immediate future but could leave once Congress passes the huge highway spending bill, aides say.

■ **Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson:** Thompson, 63, has said he would not stay for a second

Bush term and talked about getting a high-paying job in the private sector.

■ **Interior Secretary Gale Norton:** Norton, 50, has expressed interest in leaving her job. She dismissed any notion she might return soon to Colorado to begin a campaign for governor or senator.

■ **Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Mike Leavitt:** Leavitt, 53, gave up his job as Utah governor to join the Cabinet last year. He says he likes the post and has much to want to accomplish, but also has been mentioned as a possible successor to Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

■ **Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi:** Principi, 60, has been popular with veterans groups despite their dissatisfaction with VA funding levels. Principi has pushed for more money for veterans, worked to reduce long waits for care and to resolve benefits claims for older veterans. It's unclear how long he will keep his job.

■ **Housing and Urban Development Secretary for Kansas Jack F. Jackson:** Jackson, 59, is a Bush friend from Texas who took over HUD in March. He's expected to remain in the post.

■ **Labor Secretary Elaine Chao:** Chao, 51, is the first Asian-American woman appointed to a Cabinet post. Chao has said little publicly about her job plans other than she enjoys the post and serves at the pleasure of the president.

Frist campaign loan

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's campaign committee lost more than \$300,000 in the stock market since the 2000 election and could not cover a bank loan that came due in August, records showed.

The committee had paid about \$100,000 as of Sept. 30, according to its federal campaign filing.

It had \$362,000 at the beginning of July, enough to pay off the loan, but lost \$32,057, or 8.8 percent, in the stock market in July and August, the records showed.

Altogether, the committee lost more than \$524,000 on stocks since November 2000, the records showed.

Priest jailed for rape

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — A Catholic priest from New Hampshire has been sentenced to 4½ to 5 years in prison after he admitted repeatedly raping an altar boy at a Waltham parish in the 1980s.

The Rev. Robert Gale, 63, pleaded guilty to four counts of raping a child, just as jury selection was set to begin for his trial Tuesday.

He was sentenced Wednesday at St. Jude's parish in Waltham between 1980 and 1985.

Israel spy probe

WASHINGTON — FBI agents searched files and served subpoenas at the offices of the major pro-Israel lobbying organization as part of an investigation into whether Israel improperly obtained classified U.S. information on Iran.

The search Wednesday at the offices of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee was disclosed in a statement by the organization.

From The Associated Press

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US MILITARY SALES



Brokaw takes final bow as NBC News anchor

By FRAZIER MOORE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tom Brokaw began with a report on U.S. troops in Iraq. He ended the broadcast by saying farewell.

After nearly 23 years in the "NBC Nightly News" anchor chair, Brokaw reminded his viewers that "we've been through a lot together, through dark days and nights, and seasons of hope and joy."

"Whatever the story, I had only one objective to get it right," he said Wednesday, declaring in a slightly quavering voice how he was "always mindful that your patience and attention didn't come with a lifetime warranty."

Brokaw, 64, is leaving "Nightly News" and daily journalism to pursue other interests, including more time on his Montana ranch.

But he will still contribute to NBC News, doing at least three documentaries a year.

While Brokaw was saying his good-byes, Peter Jennings was



Brokaw

praising him on ABC as "a competitor in the best sense, which in our trade means when he beats us on a story, it is usually the result of enterprise."

On his CBS newscast, Dan Rather said, "For more than 30 years, I have known Tom as friend and competitor who has earned the respect of his audience, and his colleagues, myself included."

Then to Brian Williams, Rather added, "Welcome to the neighborhood."

Williams, long groomed as Brokaw's successor, takes over "Nightly News." He begins at the top of the ratings, where "Nightly News" has reigned since 1997.

Female libido drug may be health risk

By DIEDTRA HENDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The hormone patch Intrinsa aims to restore women's lost libido, but some health experts are concerned that potential health risks may eclipse the benefit of marginally better sex.

A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel was considering Thursday whether the agency should approve the first drug to treat hypoactive sexual desire disorder in women who have had their ovaries removed or damaged and are receiving estrogen therapy.

Women with the disorder have a sex drive that is so diminished that they no longer fantasize about sex or crave it, causing stress and strained relationships.

Procter & Gamble Co. is seeking FDA approval to sell the testosterone patch Intrinsa, the first such product to treat a condition that affects up to 3 million surgically menopausal American women.

Clinical trials showed that women using Intrinsa had only modest improvements to their sex lives. Women who applied the patch to their abdomen twice weekly had one more "satisfying sexual event" per four weeks, compared with a placebo.

The FDA, chastised before Congress for ignoring safety concerns with drugs, has asked its Reproductive Health Drugs advisory committee to consider whether that slim benefit offsets potential risk from long-term use of the hor-

mone testosterone. Women using the Intrinsa testosterone patch will also take estrogen.

The Women's Health Initiative, a program established by the National Institutes of Health, found that postmenopausal women taking the hormones estrogen and progestin had higher risks of heart attack, stroke and breast cancer.

"The unexpected safety findings ... indicated that short-term or uncontrolled studies may not provide adequate estimates of the risks of hormonal therapy," the FDA told its advisory panel.

Mary Johnson, a Procter & Gamble spokeswoman, said, "Those questions were not unexpected and they will be addressed during the presentation."

Documents provided to the committee Thursday said 494 surgically menopausal women were treated with the patch in combination with estrogen for one year. Of those, 127 were treated for 18 months.

The placebo-controlled safety data that they will review only covers six months.

In addition, the company plans a post-marketing study to track women taking Intrinsa for five years to determine rates of heart disease and breast cancer.

Critics were studying federal advisers to delay action or deny approval.

Dr. Leonore Tiefer, a sexuality expert at New York University's School of Medicine, urged the committee to postpone a ruling until researchers get more safety data on more women.

Methodist jury convicts minister of violating law

Lesbian minister may be defrocked

The Associated Press

PUGHTOWN, Pa. — A jury made up of United Methodist Church clergy convicted a lesbian minister Thursday of violating church law by openly living with her partner in a committed relationship.

The Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud could be defrocked as a result of the ruling, which came on the second day of her church trial.

The same 13-member jury was set to meet Thursday afternoon to decide her penalty.

Methodist law bars "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals"

from ministry. Nine votes were necessary for a conviction and the jury voted 12-1 to find Stroud guilty.

The last time the 8.3 million-member denomination convicted an openly gay cleric was in 1987, when a New



AP

Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud, left, along with her partner Chris Paige, center, are greeted by supporters as they arrive for the second day of her trial in Pughtown, Pa., on Thursday. Stroud, a United Methodist Church minister in Philadelphia, declared in a sermon last year that she is a lesbian living with her partner.

Hampshire church court defrocked the Rev. Rose Mary Demman.

Last March, a Methodist court in Washington state acquitted the Rev. Karen Dammann, who lives with a same-sex partner, citing an ambiguity in church law that the

Methodist supreme court has since eliminated.

Before the jury returned, Stroud, 34, told reporters that whatever the verdict, "this case has shown how divided we are" over the role of gays in the church. She expected to be convicted.

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AAPFES

IN THE WORLD

Ukraine vote in hands of high court

BY MARA D. BELLABY

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Tens of thousands of upset opposition supporters parted in Kiev's main square Thursday, erecting a Christmas tree and waving orange flags, in a show of confidence as the Supreme Court heard final arguments on whether to overturn disputed election results.

With Ukraine's political crisis nearing a decisive turning point, Russian President Vladimir Putin took the government's side in a deepening dispute over how to proceed once the judges issue a ruling.

Putin denounced the opposition's demand for a repeat of the contentious Nov. 21 run-off vote rather than holding entirely new elections for president, as the government wants. Putin said a new run-off "would yield nothing."

"A revote could be conducted a third, a

fourth, 25th time, until one side gets the results it needs," a grim-faced Putin said, standing alongside his longtime ally, outgoing Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

The two held a hastily arranged meeting at Moscow's airport just before Putin left for India. Kuchma flew to Russia for support as his government appeared to be losing momentum in the 11-day standoff with the opposition.

President Bush said Thursday that if a new vote is held in Ukraine it "ought to be free from any foreign influence" — an apparent veiled reference to Russia.

Bush did not single out any country, but his words seemed to echo those of Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, with whom Bush met this week and who explicitly said Russia must not meddle in the Ukrainian matter.

With a new vote appearing likely, Kuchma wants to ensure an entirely new election is held — rather than a new run-off between his ally, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, and

opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko, a reformer who wants to move Ukraine closer to the West.

Kuchma may want to put forward a stronger candidate to replace Yanukovich in the race, which would only be possible if an election is held from scratch.

A court decision had been expected Thursday. But after beginning to hear final arguments in the evening, the court's 18 judges adjourned the session for the night without a decision. The final arguments will continue Friday, after which the justices will retreat for deliberations before announcing a decision. It was unclear how long the process would take.

In talks mediated by European officials, Yushchenko and Yanukovich agreed Wednesday to respect the court's ruling. The opposition charges that government fraud cheated Yushchenko of victory in the runoff, and his campaign has appealed results from eastern regions where the prime minister's support is strongest.

Annan supported by U.N. members

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — United Nations member states voted support for Secretary-General Kofi Annan after a U.S. senator called for him to resign over possible fraud in Iraq's oil-for-food program. The State Department endorsed a Senate investigation of the troubled program but side-stepped the issue of Annan's future.

Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., who is leading one of five U.S. congressional investigations into the U.N. oil-for-food program, wrote in Wednesday's Wall Street Journal that Annan should step down because "the most extensive fraud in the history of the U.N. occurred on his watch."

The secretary-general appears to retain wide support among the 191 U.N. member states who elected him to a second five-year term in 2001.

Russia, Britain, Chile, Spain and other nations on the U.N. Security Council strongly backed Annan in recent days, as did non-council members. The 54 African nations sent a letter of support.

"He has heard no calls for resignation from any member state," U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said when asked whether he envisioned Annan's resigning. "If there's some agitation on this issue on the sidelines — that's healthy debate. But he is intent on continuing his substantive work for the remaining two years and one month of his term."

Annan was doing just that on Wednesday, urging Wall Street financiers to support the global campaign against AIDS. He was also preparing for Thursday's launch of a report by a high-level panel recommending the most extensive reform of the United Nations since its founding in 1945.

The allegations of corruption in the oil-for-food program, which first surfaced in January, have escalated, embarrassing Annan and taking away from his agenda.

Chickens for warplanes

BANGKOK, Thailand — The foreign ministers of Thailand and Russia met Wednesday to discuss bilateral issues including trade and the possibility of bartering Thai chickens for Russian warplanes.

"The authorities from both sides are discussing the trade of chickens for airplanes," Thai Foreign Minister Surakiat Sathirathai told reporters after talks with his counterpart, Sergey Lavrov. "They are meeting with the air force today, and tomorrow will meet with the defense minister."

If a deal is reached, Russia would import 100,000 tons of Thai chicken, Surakiat said.

Although he did not say what type or how many aircraft might be involved, in the past Thailand has expressed interest in acquiring Russia's advanced Su-30 fighter.

From The Associated Press

Death toll rises in the Philippines



A man salvages a bucket from inside his submerged house Thursday near a riverbank in Pulilan town, Bulacan province, north of Manila in the Philippines. The death toll from a powerful rainstorm that triggered landslides and flash floods in the eastern Philippines rose to 412, with 177 people still missing, officials said. Winds and rain from another approaching typhoon hampered rescue efforts.

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Court sends Anna Lindh's killer to prison

BY MATT MOORE

The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Sweden's Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the man convicted of murdering Foreign Minister Anna Lindh will serve his sentence in prison rather than in psychiatric care, reversing a contentious decision by a lower court.

The five-judge panel cited the ferocity with which Majlinda Mijailovic stabbed Lindh, and the rule was expected to satisfy Swedes who had called for a harsh punishment. The Supreme Court's decision is final, and there is no avenue for any appeal.

An appeals court had ruled earlier this year that Mijailovic should be confined to a mental hospital for the Sept. 10, 2003, stabbing of Lindh — one of Sweden's most popular politicians — as she shopped unguarded.

Lindh, 46, was expected to be Sweden's next prime minister. She died a day after the attack.

Mijailovic will likely serve no longer than 15 years in prison, the typical length of a life sentence in the Scandinavian country.

Had he remained in psychiatric care, he could have been held in a secure facility for as long as 20 years — or have been released much sooner on a doctor's recommendation.

The Supreme Court — after hearing conflicting opinion from six medical experts — said it was clear Mijailovic had a history of mental illness, but that it was not serious enough to bar him from prison.

Mijailovic, who confessed to attacking Lindh, used a craftsman's knife to stab her repeatedly.

The decision marked the last chapter in one of Sweden's most publicized murder cases since the 1986 unsolved killing of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

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'Lock down' promotes safety

To those who feel slighted about the lock down of American servicemembers ("Locked down" in Kuwait," letter, Nov. 25), I happen to think the "guise of security reasons" is a pretty good one.

If a target is not introduced, then it can't be attacked. I am not only referring to a possible car bomb, or someone shooting up a crowded market, but also the side alleys where it only takes a second for someone to get stabbed. One death is one too many.

It may be discomfort not being allowed to venture off base; however, you didn't deploy to go to McDonald's, buy food, or see the scenery or whatever else someone wants to do downtown.

A lot of folks see the contractors going to the gym. If it is that appealing, get out of the military. Then you can become one of those contractors you envy. If for some reason my body gets flown back to the United States in a flag-draped coffin, I hope the explanation given to my wife is better than, "He died downtown shopping or going off."

I deployed to accomplish a mission, not to go downtown. I understand the point of view, but remember: "Mission first."

Staff Sgt. Shane P. Sullivan
 Southwest Asia

No tears shed for insurgent

I am writing in response to all who want to crucify the young Marine who shot the insurgent in the Fallujah mosque.

I am sure that if the situation had been reversed, the insurgent would have done one of two things: shot the young Marine in the head or given the Marine up to the foreign wing of the insurgency, by that I mean Abu Massab al-Zarqawi and his bunch, to have his head sawed off with a dull knife.

We are fighting insurgents here who do not care about right and wrong or the laws governing the conduct of war or the care of prisoners. So, you know what I don't care what this Marine did in the heart of battle. I would not trade his life or welfare for the life or welfare of any of these insurgents.

We are in a brutal, no-holds-barred war in Iraq. We are fighting an enemy who does not have any common decency or respect for innocents. Just look at Margaret Hassan, an innocent woman who was murdered.

They don't even care about the lives of their own people. Look at how many innocent men, women and children have been killed or maimed by roadside bombs, drive-by shootings, ambushes and car bombings. They purposely hide behind noncombatants and use religious sanctuaries and civilian infrastructure to store weapons and launch attacks from. They have no morals and they conduct themselves like criminals. Yet some would call these people freedom fighters or patriots.

Doonesbury



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I am glad that our forefathers didn't act in this manner during our war for independence. If they had, I would have been ashamed of them.

Forgive me if I do not shed a tear for this individual who the Marine killed. I have plenty of others who have died in this war who deserve my tears far more than he.

Spc. John Wolf
 Camp Anacosta, Iraq

Rumsfeld a world away on hire

With the war weighing heavy on our nation's shoulders, our self-serving, arrogant defense secretary does not call on the knowledge of decorated military leaders for guidance, men who have been in battle, felt the fear and understand the strategy of war. Instead, he turns to the corporate world ("Rumsfeld gets his (non)military man to run Army," Joseph Galloway column, Nov. 23).

Has it occurred to Donald Rumsfeld that in war there are not stockholders fretting over red ink on a balance sheet? Success or failure is measured in the number of body bags shipped home. Military leaders do not answer to the frustrated moans of stockholders, but instead to the anguished cries of families and friends as they mourn their dead.

God bless America is my prayer, because His is the only power that can save us from such inept leadership.

Mart Schumacher
 Heidelberg, Germany

Politics aside, respect ACLU

I must disagree with "ACLU has outlawed whistleblowing" letter, Nov. 20).

The American Civil Liberties Union has not removed any liberties from the Boy Scouts of America. The court case was to remove federal funding from the Boy Scouts. Bases are no longer allowed to sponsor Boy Scout troops. That means that to be a taxpayer and taxpayer resources will not be going to the Boy Scouts, requiring them to sink or swim on their own merits.

The ACLU has not tried to get Boy Scout activities banned from military bases. Military members still may lead Scout troops and participate in them, and the Boy Scouts are still permitted to meet on military bases in areas used by other civilian organizations.

The simple fact is that Boy Scouts of America is not an arm of the government. It's a civilian organization, a social group of sorts. The Officer's Wives Sewing Circle isn't going to get federal funding any time soon, the recreation and gaming social group that I'm a member of doesn't get any special treatment, so why should the Scouts?

BSA officials can decide who gets to join, they can require new members to take an oath that is religious in nature but, if they are to have those freedoms, they can't receive federal funding to do so. The ACLU isn't trying to make Scouting illegal; it is making the playing field equal for everyone.

The ACLU defends all our rights, does it want to, and it offends me the only group doing it. A lot of people object to the ACLU's stance on making sure that church is separate from state. They feel that ours is a Christian nation, and that the Christian religion should be a part of our government. This is, however, directly contrary to the wishes of our Founding Fathers, particularly Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

Jefferson was strongly opposed to any union of religion and government, saying, "In every country and in every age, the priest has been hostile to liberty. He is always in alliance with the despot, abetting his abuses in return for protection to his own."

Madison said, "An alliance or coalition between Government and religion cannot be too carefully guarded against... Every new and successful example therefore of a perfect separation between ecclesiastical and civil matters is of importance... religion and government will exist in greater purity, without rather than with the aid of government."

I know a lot of people aren't happy about it, but there is no legal justification for the military sponsoring the Boy Scouts, regardless of the benefits that the Boy Scouts may or may not provide. For my part, this court case certainly won't make me stop my yearly donations to the ACLU.

Senior Airman John Nixdorf
 Kadena Air Base, Okinawa

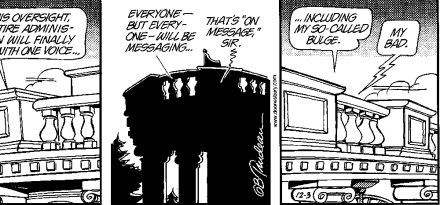
Euro rate hard to figure out

Could you possibly return to the old way of telling Stripes readers what the dollar-to-euro rate is?

For example, \$1 equals 0.7470 euro. The way it is presented now, for example: 1 euro costs \$1.33 or whatever, never equals the bank rate. Readers can't figure it out. It would be so much simpler if it said: could figure out \$50 gets him or her 37.35 euros. Please consider this change.

Ann Burski
 Giessen, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

Russia exploits Ukraine's continental divide

WASHINGTON Now more than ever, the bedrock idea on which U.S. foreign policy rests is that the nation's security is enhanced by the spread of democracy. Since 9/11 the idea has been that security depends on democratization in nations with slight flaws, traditions of popular sovereignty.

George Will

However, the policy of promoting democracy is a sharp scythe that can mow down more than the people wielding the tool might intend. In Ukraine's debased election, Russian President Vladimir Putin twice campaigned for the candidate who benefited from fraud, violence and other violations of civilized norms, incidents that seemed to bear Putin's signature. Commenting on Ukraine, Secretary of State Colin Powell said: "We cannot accept this result as legitimate because it does not meet international standards and because there has not been an investigation of the numerous and credible reports of fraud and abuse."

Which could have been said of President Putin's own re-election earlier this year. What President Bush said three years ago was that he had "a sense of" Putin's soul—formed by 15 years in the KGB—and liked what he sensed: "We share a lot of values." Events in Russia have not tempered the president's reiterated insistence that "freedom is on the march."

Putin stands athwart that march in Russia, where he has marginalized inconvenient parties, controlled the media and used the criminal justice system to intimidate potential rival sources of power and social authority. Now the Kremlin, which issued instructions to Ukrainian state-controlled media

during the presidential campaign, seems determined to export Putinism to contiguous countries.

Putin calls Viktor Yanukovich's 49.46 percent of the Ukrainian vote a "convincing victory over Viktor Yushchenko. Yushchenko received 46.61 percent in his challenge to the authoritarian regime that backed Yanukovich, who favors closer relations with Russia, in the manner of some other 'managed democracies' among former Soviet republics.

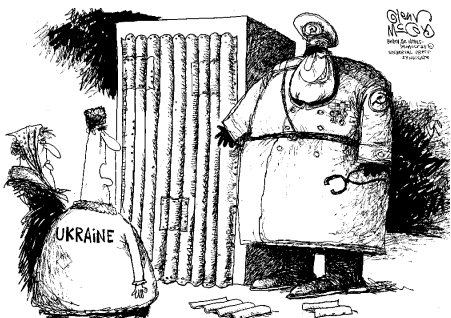
Yushchenko favors Ukrainian membership in the European Union and, perhaps, in NATO.

Criminality against Yushchenko's campaign went beyond multiple instances of violence, intimidation and vote fraud. The Financial Times reports that when Yushchenko appeared before a large crowd of supporters in Kiev, and his face filled a large video screen, a woman exclaimed: "Oh, how terrible. He was so handsome." His pockmarked and scarred features are the result of what seems to have been a poisoning that felled him hours after dining with the head of Ukraine's secret service.

Russia's attempt to control Ukraine's destiny is partly a reverberation from the dissolution of the Soviet empire. Russia's desire to envelop Ukraine within its sphere of influence is a centuries-old Russian tendency. The novel impulse at work here is the transformation of "Europe" from a geographic into a political expression—and Putin's recoil against that.

In its admirably sharp criticism of Ukraine's election, the EU is postulating certain standards of civic hygiene integral to European identity. If the EU extends membership to Turkey, Europe's border will abut Iraq. And if, in time, Ukraine joins, Europe's border will be widened to Moscow.

The canon of European literature includes Pushkin, Chekhov, Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, but that does not settle the question of Russia's identity—its relationship to Europe. Charles de Gaulle spoke of Europe extending from the Atlantic (in some of his



I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS — A VOTING BOOTH WITH AN IRON CURTAIN.

moods, from the English Channel) to the Ural Mountains. But there is a lot of Russia—eight time zones of it—east of there.

Ukraine has been independent for 13 years—the length of time between America's declaration of independence and the election of its first president, when the cohesion of the national entity was in doubt. Talk of secession is rife in Ukraine's eastern, Russian-oriented region.

The 19th century featured national consolidations—the United States, Germany, Italy, Belgium, etc. Recently, the disintegrative forces of religion, ethnicity and language have driven events in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, the former Soviet Union and elsewhere.

Ukraine, where Catholicism and the Ukrainian language flourish in the west and

Orthodox Christianity and Russian in the east, could be the latest cauldron to boil over.

The United States, with its foreign policy hostage to January elections by the Palestinian Authority and those in Iraq, has a stake in Ukrainian events that is much larger than its leverage. As Lech Walesa, hero of Poland's liberation, told a mass meeting of Yushchenko's supporters, Poland supports you but you must do this yourself.

The problem, in Ukraine and others among Russia's anxiously watching neighbors, is Putin. Perhaps Secretary Powell intended the wide arc of his scythe to encompass Moscow when he said that corrupt elections cannot create legitimate governments.

George Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Desire to capture bin Laden stronger than tactics

The (Baltimore) Sun

The Pakistani army has pulled back from a tribal region where it was conducting a highly publicized and entirely fruitless hunt for Osama bin Laden. The operation, in an area known as South Waziristan, reportedly conducted with American intelligence help from across the nearby Afghan border; it succeeded primarily in turning the local tribesmen fiercely against the government forces. In October, the Pakistani military was reduced to waging a campaign of aerial bombardment against recalcitrant villages.

Now, according to an official announcement, a newfound spirit of cooperation among the Waziris will allow the army to abandon its checkpoint in the area. Some Pakistani officials say that no signs of the al-Qaida leader have been found, anyway, and that suggests to them that he's nowhere in the vicinity.

Others reserve judgment on that point but, in any case, using an army to chase after an individual is not only ineffective but often counterproductive—as Pakistan was discovering. The tribesmen are riled up, and from among them a new terrorist leader is emerging: Abdullah Jehad, a one-legged 29-year-old whose two years at Guantanamo failed to curb his ardor or teach him respect for authority.

Released from Cuba in March, he organized the kidnapping of two Chinese engi-

neers this fall—one of whom was killed by government troops attempting a rescue—and then took credit for the bombing of a hotel in Islamabad last month. He has become a sensation in the Pakistani press, and has given President Pervez Musharraf considerably more to be concerned about than has the titular head of al-Qaida. He's also a good example of the way in which the United States succeeds in making enemies for itself.

Pakistan seems—perpetually—to be at one timing point or another. Right now the government is gingerly exploring

some sort of deal with India over Kashmir, in the northeast, and the last thing it needs is a fundamentalist uprising in the northwest. Defanging the Islamists is Musharraf's most crucial task, from his own point of view—but that coincides with American interests as well. It might, in the long run, also be the best way to catch bin Laden—if, in fact, he's still in the Pakistani mountains. Winning over the tribes rather than trying to pound them into submission could leave him with nowhere to run.

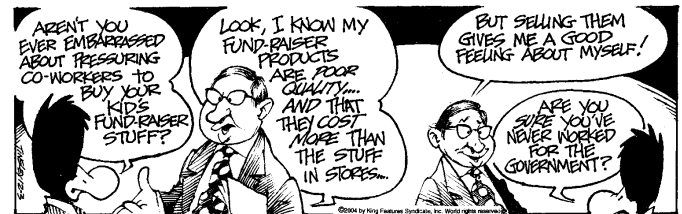
In that sense, then, the current pull-

back may be a good sign. But it's worth noting that no government—not the Pakistani government, nor the British colonial government before it—has ever succeeded in extending its writ over the tribal areas. If Musharraf is to succeed, even in part, it may mean dropping the pursuit of the al-Qaida leadership for now.

The Bush administration should be patient on that score; though justice will be served by the eventual capture of bin Laden, it is more likely to be accomplished through stealth and ingenuity than by a clumsy and sometimes less-than-genuine frontal assault.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the low to mid 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with rain in the north. Highs in the upper 30s to mid 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the upper 50s to mid 60s.

France: North, mostly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the upper 40s. South, cloudy with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms throughout the day. Highs in the low to mid 60s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy throughout the day, with areas of rain in the morning. Highs in the upper 30s to mid 40s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain and areas of snow in the morning. Highs in the mid 40s.

Hungary: Cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the upper 40s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the low to mid 50s.

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the upper 60s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with areas of fog in the morning. Highs in the mid-50s.

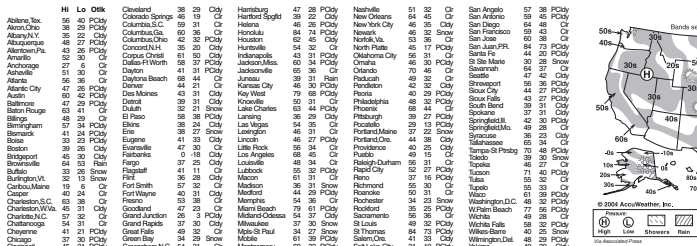
Norway: Southwest coast, mostly cloudy becoming cloudy with rain overnight. Highs in the low 40s. Inland, mostly cloudy becoming cloudy with snow overnight. Highs in the low 20s.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with areas of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms throughout the day. Highs in the 50s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the low to mid 60s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and day-by-day forecasts, visit the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <http://www.ombach.af.mil>
<http://www.public.ombach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON



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STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Disease concerns

NC CHARLOTTE — Poor Rudolph won't join in any reindeer games in North Carolina this holiday season.

State wildlife officials worried about chronic-wasting disease — the deer-family equivalent of mad cow disease — have banned the transportation of deer, elk, caribou and reindeer within the state.

They have also blocked the import of the animals from other states in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease to the wild deer population.

That keeps deer farmers from moving the animals to Christmas parties, hayrides and other holiday events and is costing some of them thousands of dollars.

The rules are a reaction to a fatal disease that has infected deer in at least 12 states, devastating entire herds. The state Wildlife Commission approved temporary rules two years ago designed to stop the disease from being carried into North Carolina. The rules became permanent this summer.

Police drive Chevs?

ID BONNERS FERRY — She's not exactly the little old lady from Pasadena.

Nita Friedman, 66, led police on a pattering pursuit, driving at or under the speed limit for 15 miles through two counties.

The creeping chase on U.S. Highway 95 ended when three of Friedman's tires were blown out by a spike strip.

Police chief Mike Hutter said Friedman reported being confused because she was being pulled over by a four-wheel-drive Chevy Silverado pickup with lights in the grill. He said Friedman told Hutter she was from New York, and that in New York police drive cars.

"She just doesn't understand that she was doing anything wrong," Hutter said.

The chase started in Bonner County after Hutter got reports of a reckless driver.

Hutter said when he flipped on his lights and siren, it looked as if Friedman was pulling over. But she allegedly got back on the roadway and sped up to legal speeds between 50 mph and 60 mph.

Though Friedman never sped during the chase and even stopped behind a left-turning vehicle in Elmore, Hutter said he asked State Police to put a spike strip in the roadway.

When Friedman reached the spike strip, about three miles into Boundary County, she drove over it, stopped for a moment and then started driving again. But three of her tires were flattened, preventing her from getting far.

Friedman was charged with eluding police and reckless driving.

She was jailed on \$600 bail.

Not feeling optimistic

PA QUAKERTOWN — It's a glum day for optimists.

After 24 years of community service, the Quakertown Optimists Club is calling it quits. They're holding their last meeting on



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Thursday, citing declining interest.

"I feel sad," club president Bernard Kensky said.

Fewer club members were taking part in sporting and scholastic activities for children, and fewer kids were getting involved in club events, according to Kensky.

The group worked with schools to hold essay, spelling and public speaking contests for students, sponsored a youth bowling league and organized golf tournaments and football and basketball events.

A bicycle derby sponsored by the club and the Quakertown police department drew only 12 children last year, down from previous attendance of 50 to 70 children, Kensky said.

"Four or five people would come to meetings and only two or three people would help out with the activities," Kensky said. "I don't know why people stopped getting involved."

The Optimist Club is an international organization that formed in 1920. The Quakertown chapter started in 1980 with 35 members, but dropped to 15 members this year.

Quakertown is about 35 miles north of Philadelphia.

Surgeon presumed dead

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A nationally renowned San Francisco surgeon is presumed dead after vanishing while abalone diving off the Mendocino County Coast.



A hunting day

Deer hunter Todd King walks back to the woods to continue hunting outside West Liberty, Pa., in Butler County.

ing off the Mendocino County Coast.

A search-and-rescue team found an abalone pry bar and measuring tool belonging to William Krupski on Monday near the spot where he was last seen south of the coastal town of Mendocino.

No other sign of Krupski was found, Mendocino County Sheriff's Lt. Don Miller said.

Krupski, a vascular surgeon at Kaiser-Permanente Medical Center in San Francisco, was abalone diving with his wife, Ann.

Their floats drifted away in a strong current, Krupski's wife swam about 30 yards to retrieve them while he continued diving, according to Miller and family members. She told sheriff's investigators that her husband was gone when she returned.

"We know by what his wife told us that he was tired, but he was also intent on getting the last of the three abalone you are allowed to get on a sport fishing license," said Miller, who is an abalone diver himself. "We don't know what happened. No one witnessed it."

Archdiocese in the black

IN INDIANAPOLIS — The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis expects to end 2004 in the black after seven years of deficits. The shortfalls of as much as \$2 million a year were caused by rising health care costs for employees and rising property insurance costs, officials said.

Chair accused of conflicts

CO DENVER — A consumer advocacy group asked the chairman of the Public Utilities Commission to step down during upcoming hearings on a request by Quest Communications to ease regulations.

The group accused Gregory Sopkin of violating conflict-of-interest rules when he took a leadership position on a board indirectly funded by Quest and other companies.

Ice museum under way

AK FAIRBANKS — Chena Hot Springs Resort began construction of a four-gallery ice museum and chapel to be used for weddings. Owner Bernie Karl says he and ice carver Steve Brice learned important lessons since being forced to allow the Aurora Ice Hotel to melt last winter after ice chandeliers collapsed.

Innocence project ready

CT HARTFORD — The state public defender's office is ready to launch a program aimed at finding and freeing innocent people in state prisons. The Connecticut Innocence Project will seek out case evidence, especially DNA, that can exonerate inmates.

Rep. open to audit idea

FL TALLAHASSEE — Representative Ron Reagan, the new chairman of the House committee that deals with elections, said he's open to considering the idea of backup paper audit trails for touch-screen voting machines. The systems were used in 15 Florida counties this year.



Lit with holiday spirit

lights to the Caveman Bridge in Grants Pass, Ore.



Riding on the shore

A bicyclist pedals across Daytona Beach, in Daytona Beach, Fla., after an outgoing tide left behind a scattering of shells.



Fish out of water

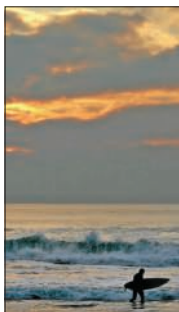
Larry Baldwin, Neuse Riverkeeper, examines a Mola Mola (Ocean Sunfish) that washed ashore 5 miles below New Bern, N.C., on the Neuse River. The more than 300 pound fish was spotted swimming along the shore and residents tried to push it out to deep water but it returned to the beach and died. The Mola Mola is not rare along the ocean beaches but is unusual this far up a brackish river.



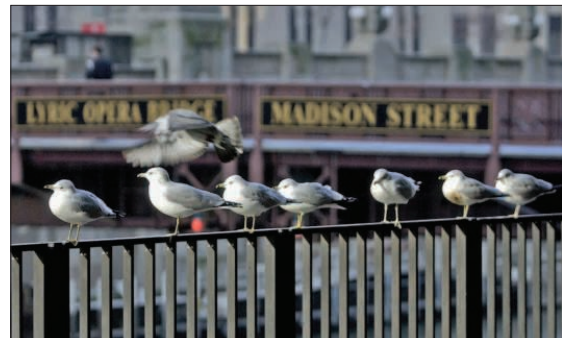
Winter weather sets in David Hughes and his dog Ty strolled by the piece "Sore throats come in three ways" by artist Tim Schaffer in a window display at Dolphin art gallery in downtown Kansas City, Mo., as the snow swirled around them.



All covered up Snow falls on a cougar sculpture at Cougar Plaza in Pullman, Wash. Pullman is home to the Washington State University Cougars.



Surfing day done Surfer Joe Hiragawa leaves the water as the sun sets over Ocean Beach, San Francisco, on Tuesday.



Trying to catch some sun Seagulls gather along a railing on the Chicago River to catch a few rays of morning sun as temperatures dipped below freezing in Chicago.

1 dead in bridge collapse

ND NEW TOWN — A section of a huge bridge under construction over a Missouri River reservoir collapsed, killing one worker and injuring three others, officials said.

The 4,200-foot Four Bears Bridge is to be the longest in North Dakota when it is finished, and at \$55 million the most expensive transportation project undertaken by the state. It will replace a narrow, outdated bridge over Lake Sakakawea.

Gwen Lutzer, a spokeswoman for St. Louis-based Pru-Con Construction, which began work on the project in May 2003, said the company was trying to determine what happened.

The bridge was scheduled to be completed next summer.

Burial records on Web

IL SPRINGFIELD — History buffs who want to know who's buried next to Abraham Lincoln soon will be able to search digital versions of Oak Ridge Cemetery's earliest burial records on the Internet. The cemetery gets 2.5 million visitors each year.

Former judge arrested

FL INVERNESS — Gary Graham, whose controversial judicial career in Citrus County ended a decade ago with his removal from the bench, was arrested and accused of committing sex crimes against two 10-year-old girls.

Graham, 56, is charged with two counts of lewd and lascivious conduct and one count of sexual battery on a child younger than 12, an arrest report showed. He was being held without bail in the Citrus County jail.

Graham has been a subject of controversy through much of his legal career. As county court judge, Graham once ordered a man to kill poisonous snakes that had bitten a neighbor and were ruled a menace.

He sent several people to jail for using foul language or otherwise acting contemptuously in court.

Man, officer disagree

PA BELLE VERNON — A man accused of pointing a loaded handgun at a police officer says he's only guilty of wearing tight jeans.

Sean Eldon Duvall, 36, was arrested Tuesday on charges including aggravated assault and reckless endangerment for the June 18 incident.

Southwest Regional Police Detective Sgt. James Rega said in court papers that Duvall left his car with the .38-caliber revolver hidden under papers and aimed it at him when he stopped to see if Duvall needed help.

Duvall told The Associated Press that he didn't need help, he said he was just stepping out of his car to go to a friend's house to play chess.

Duvall acknowledged he had his gun with him, but said he has a permit to carry it, which he tried to show Rega. By law, the gun must be concealed, but Duvall said he couldn't conceal it under his pants while sitting in his car because his jeans were too tight.

Duvall said that's why left the car with the gun sandwiched among some magazines.

"The magazines were the bread and the gun was the meat," he said.

A district justice is scheduled to hear both sides of the story on Dec. 15.

Ship decommissioning

MS PASCAGOULA — The USS Yorktown will be removed from service Friday during a decommissioning ceremony two months after its sister ship, Ticonderoga, was towed from the Naval Station PascagoULA. The Yorktown will join Ticonderoga at the Navy's Inactive Ships Maintenance Facility in Pennsylvania.

Skip Mass if you're sick

MA BOSTON — Roman Catholic leaders in Springfield and Boston are urging influenza-prone parishioners to forego handshakes and communion wine, and Springfield Bishop Timothy McDonnell is excusing ill churchgoers from Mass altogether. The recommendations follow a flu vaccine shortage. McDonnell also said that receiving both the communion wafer and a sip of wine "is generally encouraged but is not a necessity," and that bread alone will suffice. The "sign of peace" between parishioners — typically a handshake — can be accomplished as easily with "a simple and friendly nod and/or wave," he said.

Da Vinci dispute ongoing

IN EVANSVILLE — Jurors could decide next summer if Leonardo da Vinci scribbled in the margins of a rare Renaissance-era book, the subject of a legal dispute that will require document experts and handwriting specialists.

The dispute centers around a 2001 contract concerning a 15th-century text that is valuable in its own right as a rare book. It could be worth significantly more if da Vinci made the notations in the margins.

The Evansville couple who owned the manuscript and hired an art dealer to sell it for them contended the handwriting is da Vinci's; the dealer contends it's a forgery.

This week, lawyers for both sides agreed the disputed manuscript will remain with the Akron, Ohio, art dealer and won't be sold or disposed of until the suit is resolved.

Enormous gallstone

CA LOS ANGELES — A gallstone the size of a golf ball — about 16 times the size of a normal one — has been removed from a 56-year-old man, doctors say. The massive growth was the result of a stent inadvertently left in his body from a pancreatic operation more than a decade ago.

Gonzalo Medina underwent surgery Monday at a hospital in Los Angeles. The procedure "went fine," according to his doctor, Ian Kenner.

"In 30 years of treating gallstones, I have never seen one of this size," Kenner said, adding it was amazing that Medina wasn't killed by it. "It's a tribute to the human body, and in this case, a particularly resilient one."

More than a year ago, Medina began suffering from chills, stomach pain and fever.

Medina previously underwent a procedure that sent shock waves to the gallstone to fragment it while the patient is submerged in water. He will likely face more operations, doctors said.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2004

	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley Penguin Party	Movie *** "The David Caruso Story" (1999) Andrew Kavrut. Screenplay takes its toll on the 1970s pop icon.	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Women's College Basketball	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	SpongeBob SquarePants			Headline News	Nightly Business Report	College at Tennessee (Taped)	Easy Entertaining-Chiarolo	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)		(3:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPIews	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Decorating Cents	ESPIews
10:30	Between the Lions (E)		(3:35) The View	Advisory Block			The Look for Less	The Pacific Report
11:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	(16:48) Movie *** "The Talk of the Town" (1994) Comedy. Cary Grant, Jean Harlow, Ronald Colman.	(1:17) General Hospital	King of the Hill	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	E! News Live	King of the Hill
11:30	Stanley Penguin Party		(1:17) General Hospital	That '70s Show 'I'm Free'		College Basketball Nebraska at Alabama-Birmingham. (Taped)	That '70s Show	That '70s Show 'I'm Free'
12:00	Wired the Explorer			The Apprentice	PrimeTime Thursday		Girlfriends	The Apprentice
12:30	The Wiggles		Judge Judy	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (N)	Good Morning America		Charmed 'Which Way Now?'	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (N)
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "First Daughter" (1999) Martin Hamilton. A Secret Service agent must rescue the president's daughter.	Today Mike Nichols, It's Cop-time.	Pacific Report			Alyk McBeal "Do You Wanna Dance?"	Pacific Report
13:30	Drake & Josh			The Tonight Show	Headline News	College Football Teams to Be Announced.	Any Day Now 'It's Not Just a Word'	The Tonight Show
14:00	Blue's Clues		What's New Scooby-Do?	Late Show	Channel One		ER "Lockdown"	Late Show
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Ozzy & D "Pulley Alert"	The Brothers Garcia	The Early Show			Access Hollywood
15:00	Funnies Home Videos	(2:49) Movie *** "Rising Sun" (1995) Sean Connery. A Japanese corporate murder at a Japanese corporation.	Headline News	Access Hollywood				Access Hollywood
16:00	Pokemon		Judy	Headline News				Access Hollywood
16:30	Yo-Gi! "Mime Control"		Gwyneth Paltrow Revealed	The Late Late Show				Access Hollywood
17:00	AAah! Real Monsters		Headline News	Headline News				Access Hollywood
17:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	The Late Late Show				Access Hollywood
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants		Hollywood Backstories	ESPIews	FOX News	Tennis Davis Cup Final Round - United States vs. Spain. Singles matches. From Seville, Spain. (Live)	The Simpsons	Dennis Miller
18:30	Hugrants	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller	PrimeTime Thursday		Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
19:00	Al Grown Up (Part 1 of 2)	Movie *** "State and Main" (2000) Alec Baldwin. A Hollywood film crew disturbs the peace of a Vermont town.	That '70s Show 'I'm Free'	Countdown With Keith Olderman	FOX News		Boston Public Chapter Thirty Seven	Countdown With Keith Olderman
20:00	Dave the Barbarian		The Apprentice	Entertainment Studios.com			Friends	Entertainment Studios.com
20:30	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius		Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (N)	Today Mike Nichols, It's Cop-time.	Headline News		Satified "The Money"	Today Mike Nichols, It's Cop-time.
21:00	Drake & Josh	(4:48) Movie *** "The Saint" (1997) Adventure. Val Kilmer. A master of disguise finds romance and danger in England.	The Tonight Show	Oobi	Headline News	The Hot List	NFL Live	Oobi
21:30	That's So Raven			Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	Inside Politics		Around the Horn	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
22:00	Switched						Parade the Interruption	
22:30	Radio Free Roscoe	Movie *** "Get Over It" (2001) Comedy. Jimmy Dornis.	Late Show					
23:00	Home Improvement							
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2004								
00:30	Hey Arnold!	(11:00) Movie "Get Over It" (2001) Comedy. Jimmy Dornis.	(11:30) Late Show	Powerpuff Girls	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Al Grown Up (Part 1 of 2)
00:30	Rocket Power		Access Hollywood	Powerpuff Girls	NBC Nightly News		Dave the Barbarian	
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	(3:40) Movie *** "Marathon Man" (1976, Suspense) Dennis Hoffman. Laurence Olivier. A graduate student is at the mercy of a Nazi war criminal.	Sports	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	ABC World News Tonight		Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	
1:30	Hugrants			Drake & Josh	CBS Evening News	NBA Shootaround	Drake & Josh	
2:00	Al Grown Up (Part 1 of 2)			Sports	Countdown With Keith Olderman	NBA Basketball Detroit Pistons at San Antonio Spurs. From the SEC Center in San Antonio. (Live)	Sports	
2:30	Dave the Barbarian			Hannity & Colmes				
3:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Movie *** "State and Main" (2000) Alec Baldwin. A Hollywood film crew disturbs the peace of a Vermont town.	Headline News	WWE Raw	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	NBA Basketball Indiana Pacers at Sacramento Kings. From ARCO Arena in Sacramento, Calif. (Live)	Blue Planet	
3:30	Drake & Josh		Headline News	Headline News	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Friends	
3:30	That's So Raven		Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live		Satified "The Money"	
4:30	Sabrina: The Teenage Witch		Headline News	NavyMarine Corps News	Nightly News		Breathtaking Yoga	WWE Raw
5:00	Sesame Street (E)	(4:48) Movie *** "The Saint" (1997) Adventure. Val Kilmer. A master of disguise finds romance and danger in England.	Oobi	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Nightly News		Caribbean Workout	
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	Operation Junkyard (E)	BET Nightly News	NFL Game of the Week	Body Shopping	Headline News
6:00	Barney & Friends (E)		Al Grown Up (Part 1 of 2)	Radio Free Roscoe	Tina Smith		Every Woman	NavyMarine Corps News
6:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Dave the Barbarian	American Adventurer	Nightly Business Report		Beautiful Homes-Estates	That's So Raven
7:00	Planet's Funniest Animals		Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Access Hollywood	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Curb Appeal	Switched!
7:30	Amazing Animal Videos		That's So Raven	Headline News			Landscapers Challenge	Radio Free Roscoe
8:00	Lilo & Stitch "Fibber"	(4:48) Movie *** "The Saint" (1997) Adventure. Val Kilmer. A master of disguise finds romance and danger in England.	Switched!	ESPIews			Weekend Warriors	American Adventurer
8:30	Team Supreme (E)		Focus on the Force	George Lopez	Headline News		Clean House	Access Hollywood
9:00	Static Shock "Hard as Nails"	(2:15) Movie *** "When an IP" (1998) Action. Jackie Chan. A special agent with amnesia goes to his former boss.	Half & Half	CSI: Miami "Stalkerazzi"	Headline News		BBQ With Bobby Flay	Headline News
9:30	Kim Possible "Blush" (E)		Access Hollywood	CSI: Miami "Stalkerazzi"	Headline News		480-a-Day	ESPIews
10:00	Ten Titans		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Headline News		Fashion Police	Headline News
10:30	Tenage Mutant Ninja Turtles		Headline News	According to Jim "Paintball"	Headline News		It's Good to Be	Headline News
11:00	Dragonball GT		Headline News	Half & Half	Saturday Night Live		101 Most Unforgettable SNL Moments	Headline News
11:30	JuJitsu League		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.		Intimate Portrait "Kelly Price"	Headline News
12:00	Yee Kids News (E)		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.		Antiques Roadshow "Charlotte, North Carolina"	Saturday Night Live
12:30	Cyberchase "Curekiki" (E)		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.		Star Trek: Voyager "Faces"	Headline News
13:00	Endurance "Polar Muzz" (E)		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.		Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.
13:30	Scout's Safari "The Gift" (E)		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.		What Not to Wear "Miss A woman into the park look."	Sports
14:00	Animal Kidding		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
14:30			Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
15:00	Most Extreme Births Extreme		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
15:30	Hercules: The Legendary Journeys		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
16:00	AAah! Real Monsters		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
17:00	Rocket Power		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
19:00	Movie *** "A Christmas Story" (1983) Comedy. Peter Billingsley. Darren McGavin.		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
20:00	Movie *** "Shantelle" (1999) Comedy. Gena Davis. Hugh Laurie.		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
21:00	Movie *** "The Saint" (1997) Adventure. Val Kilmer. A master of disguise finds romance and danger in England.		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
22:00	My So-Called Life "So-Called Angels"		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
23:00	The Simpsons		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
23:30	The Simpsons		Headline News	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			

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Officials eye Knight in awards melee

Police and probation officials have been reviewing video of the melee at the Vibe Awards show to determine if **Marion "Suge" Knight** played a role in the altercation. The rap producer has denied any involvement in the incident in which a man struck **Dr. Dre** twice, sparking a brawl in which the attacker was stabbed and seriously injured.

Dre, whose real name is **Andre Young**, met with authorities Monday at the Santa Monica police station and demanded that his attacker, **Jimmy "James" Johnson**, be charged with assault and battery.

Videotape shows Johnson punching Dre on Nov. 16 at the second annual awards show. Johnson was then stabbed, allegedly by **Young Buck**, a rapper who is a protégé of Dr. Dre.

Young Buck, whose real name is **David Darnell Brown**, surrendered Nov. 19 to authorities and is scheduled to be arraigned Dec. 20.

The force is with Cal State Long Beach

"Star Wars" creator **George Lucas** donated \$100,000 to California State University, Long Beach, for film department scholarships and equipment.

Lucas donated the money at the request of the Department of Film and Electronic Arts. Although Lucas attended the University of Southern California, director **Steven Spielberg**, his close friend, went to Cal State Long Beach.

The university needed the money to fix or repair equipment damaged by an October storm. A satellite dish on the department's building fell through the roof during the storm, allowing water to seep into the building.

The department may not have been able to restore damaged cameras, projectors and videotape machines without the Lucas donation, department chair **Craig Smith** said recently.

The university's two-year undergraduate film program is popular among aspiring filmmakers. Alumni include **John Dykstra**, who won an Oscar for visual effects for "Star Wars"; **David Twohy**, who wrote and directed "Pitch Black"; and "The Chronicles of Riddick"; and **Mark Steven Johnson**, writer and director of "Daredevil."

Prince Harry's knee injury bothersome

Prince Harry will delay his entry into Britain's prestigious military academy to allow him to fully recover from a knee injury, royal officials said.

Harry had been due to enroll at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in January. But the office of his father, **Prince Charles**, said Tuesday that Harry wouldn't start until May.

The 20-year-old, who is third in line to the throne, injured his knee several months ago while he was training with the army before his entry test for Sandhurst.

His knee has continued to trouble him in recent months and the injury sidelined him from playing polo during a stay at a polo farm in Argentina this month.

Tuesday's statement said Harry wanted to make sure he was 100 percent prepared for his entry to the academy, where students face a grueling schedule in their first weeks.

Nanny sues Imus, his wife and networks

A former nanny who worked for **Don Imus** has sued the radio and television personality, claiming he wrongfully fired her, chased her off his New Mexico ranch in the middle of the night, and then trashed her on his radio show.

Nichole C. Mallette, 24, says in court papers that Imus apparently became upset about a small knife that she carried in a sheath on her belt, and about a cap pistol she had brought to the ranch for his 6-year-old son.

She says the boy had told her he had permission to play with cap guns at the ranch but the lawsuit, filed Monday, says she never gave the cap pistol to the boy.

Mallette is seeking unspecified damages, saying she was wrongfully terminated, defamed and subjected to intentional emotional distress. Her lawsuit names Imus, his wife, NBC, MSNBC and Westwood One.

Stories and photos from wire reports

"The series was a blend of great slapstick — Fran is a wonderful physical comedian and obviously had studied Lucille Ball a lot — but it was also a very sweet, romantic comedy, and a fish-out-of-water story."

Charles Shaughnessy

actor who played Maxwell Sheffield on "The Nanny"



That unmistakable whine is back! **Fran Drescher**, center, hosts a reunion of the cast from her sitcom "The Nanny" at her seaside Malibu, Calif., home.

A nosh to remember

Fran Drescher throws reunion party for cast of 'The Nanny'

BY BRIDGET BYRNE

The Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. — Fran Drescher's distinctive voice cuts through the noisy chaos of actors and production people lounging the deck of her beachfront home.

"Hi, everyone. How you doing?" The star, known for her nasally whine, Yiddish exclamations, and ability to make a word like "wow" last as long as a sentence, was hosting a reunion of the cast from "The Nanny."

The gathering was staged as a dinner party where the leading lady and her co-stars reminisced. Their semi-scripted chatter was then interspersed with clips from the series, which ran on CBS from 1993 to 1999.

The result: "The Nanny Reunion: A Nosh to Remember" airing Dec. 6 on Lifetime, which shows weekday reruns of the sitcom.

At first, Drescher was reluctant to do a reunion special about Fran Fine, the middle-class girl from Queens who stumbles into a job taking care of a rich man's kids.

"Much as I love the show — I TV reruns so I can watch it whenever I want — I was feeling like I need to grow as an artist and let the audience see me doing other things," Drescher says.

In a case of classic Hollywood deal making, a compromise was struck: To get Drescher to agree, Lifetime offered her the chance to direct and appear on "Strong Medicine."

The episode she directed aired in September, and the guest spot came on the medical drama's 100th episode in October. She played a uterine cancer patient who sues an insurance company for not including basic tests in their policies.

The 47-year-old Drescher, who survived the same kind of cancer, is a vocal advocate for women's health care and wrote the best sellers "Cancer Schmancer" and "Enter Whining.") So was the cancer and disruption of Drescher's home also in the reunion deal? Seems it was more about correctness than career.

"I stuck my foot in my mouth and said, 'Wait a minute.

Why don't we do it at my house?' never thinking it was going to be such an enormous undertaking," Drescher says. "But I'm an overachiever and if I was going to do this reunion show, it was very important to me that it be done correctly. That means being inventive, being original, making it better than the regular run-of-the-mill ones, having it be funnier."

She co-opted ex-husband Peter Jacobson, with whom she created the series, to direct. The lavish food was prepared by one of Wolfgang Puck's restaurants. The one thing she couldn't arrange was the weather, which lacked the sunset-over-the-sea that had been hoped for.

The cast members who attended included everyone but **Daniel Davis** (the butler) who was working out of town.

Drescher's parents, **Morty** and **Sylvia Drescher**, were there, her mother being a look-alike for **Renee Taylor**, who played **Fine's** mother, **Sylvia**.

The series included many familial incidents drawn from Drescher's real upbringing. "I tapped into a simpler time in my life surrounded by all the rich and wonderful characters I grew up with," says Drescher.

She describes **Fine** as "fun, funny, immature and sexy. Her life was much less complicated than mine and I really liked being in her skin everyday."

Charles Shaughnessy, who played **Fine's** boss and love interest, **Maxwell Sheffield**, says the series was a "blend of great slapstick — Fran is a wonderful physical comedian and obviously had studied **Lucille Ball** a lot — but it was also a very sweet, romantic comedy, and a fish-out-of-water story."

Drescher is getting back into sitcoms next year in a WB series currently titled "Shacking Up." She describes her character as "a sexy divorcee who's living with a man much, much younger — closer to her son's age."

But moving from **Fran Fine** in "The Nanny" to **Fran Reeves** in the new sitcom won't mean leaving behind the essentials that made Drescher famous.

"It's always more or less that larger-than-life persona. They wrap it in another story, but the audience kind of accepts it, because it's really me," she says, laughing, well, just like **Fran**.

Horoscope

The moon void of course this morning contributes to the general mood of restlessness and anticipation of ... what? That sense of not knowing is both maddening and delicious. As long as we stay in the dark, whatever it is behind the proverbial door No. 3 becomes the projection of all our hopes. What are you wishing for?

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(December 3). Life is as fancy free as you allow it to be. Loved ones influence you in new ways — your interests are changing, and your relationships bloom with the shift. Get out of town, and take a well-deserved break next month. Luck comes from the people you meet on your journeys, especially water signs (Pisces, Scorpio and Cancer).

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Just when a situation starts to feel like it's taking over your life, a friend offers a chance for adventure. You remember adventure, right? Consider how many of the seven wonders of the world you've seen. Explore.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You usually can be counted on as the emotional rock, the stabilizing force, the one who soldiers on no matter what. So the effusively sentimental mood you're in today is seen as an anomaly and may amuse loved ones.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Your role as "whistle-blower" is tough for you, as you are used to being liked by all sides. You'll be the one to spot the element of the plan (or the character involved) that is on the shaky side (if not downright indecent or dangerous).

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Bring plenty of initiative to the table. When you dare to want more, you're more likely to find a way to get more. Someone who knows the secret shortcuts is nearby. Turn up your instinct, and locate this person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

The super volcano that is now Yellowstone devastated the Western Hemisphere.

sphere some 640,000 years ago. Now, it's the first and most fantastic national park. There's hope for that area of your life you currently think is a catastrophe.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You can't believe what you hear. Someone close may be trying to smirch a perceived rival by spreading false rumors. Sticking up for the underdog is just one of the ways you make a difference in this crazy world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Life is a, and you are, in the hippest sense of the word, a player. A clever maneuver you make in the early part of a project gives you the edge that will keep you in the lead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Sometimes in life, as in chess, a pawn must be sacrificed in order to gain an attacking position. Be smart. Make sure you completely understand your role in a situation. See that the pawn isn't you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You relate your story well. In fact, you're such a witty teller of anecdotes that you'll be invited to see new places and get to know new people. It's fun to care for the non-verbal ways you communicate to the world, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You'll find yourself being reviewed in some way. Others shiver and shake under such circumstances, but you're as ready and cool as a Swiss Alps ski vacation. You coast your way into a beautiful offering.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You have no time to waste. Then again, you have never considered taking a different route home or venturing into the unknown to be a waste of time! A field trip is featured, especially one that is short, direct and memorable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

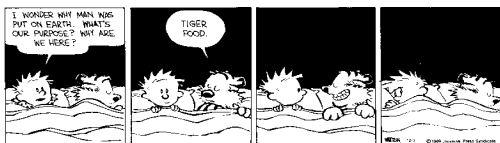
You're not alone in what you believe, but your communication style is pretty unique. Finding people who relate to you is uncommon as of the day. A witty gambit opens a fascinating conversation.

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Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



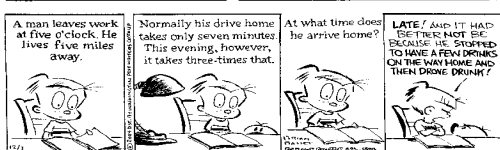
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



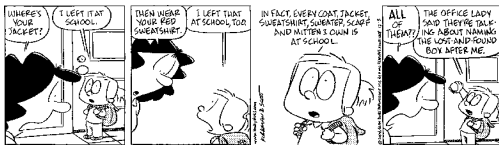
Footrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



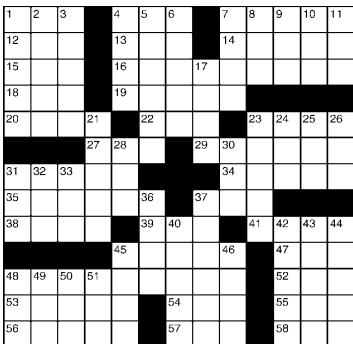
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Fool
4 Likely
7 Basketball play
12 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
13 Magnon precursor
14 Old-time marketplace
15 Verb in a limerick's first line
16 Attendance check
18 NYC hrs.
19 Borden mascot
20 Unwilling to listen
22 "Monty Python" opener
23 Section
27 Resistance unit
29 Warning signal
31 Quickly
34 Put up
35 Posh
37 Pouch
38 Temple U. team
39 Curmudgeonly cry
41 Session with a shrink
45 Desires
47 Guitar's kin
48 "You betcha!"
52 Greek cross
53 Sandy's mistress
54 New Haven collegian
55 Double curve
56 Milkmaid's burden

Down

- 1 Cut lumber
2 Humiliate
3 Trattoria selection
4 Dental distress
5 Bout before the main event
6 Raise a glass to
7 Chantilly, for one
8 Past
9 "Embraceable —"
10 Coffee vessel
11 Mr. Sajak
17 Intervertebral structure
21 Concentrate
23 Shrivel with heat
24 Pink slip
25 Sinbad's bird
26 Stick with a kick
28 Whammy
30 Calf-feed-teria
31 Big bother
32 Basilica bench
33 The whole enchilada
36 Longest wholly Spanish river
37 Woman, to an Aussie
40 Veep who resigned
42 Made public
43 Emperor's edit
44 Don't discard
45 Salt Lake squad
46 Use a teaspoon
48 Upper limit
49 — shoestring
50 One (Pref.)
51 Love, in a sense

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-3

CRYPTOQUIP

C ZRUWYI CM XCKKRJRV
SIY XJSQYW WLICUB
PLICKSUYYV. SMHYI SJJ.

HPYQ'IY PCBP ZCUWV.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A BUILDING WERE PRETTY, WITH IVY COVERING MUCH OF IT, IT WOULD BE SIMPLY DE-VINE!

Today's Cryptquip Clue: J equal L

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Autos for Sale 142

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Army's Ross answers the call to duty

HPHILADELPHIA e heard the haunting echo of it, like a bugle call from his past, pulling him back to an earlier time, when he was a cavalryman, in the Third Armored Regiment.

Bill Lyon



ate at The Point.

Duty. Honor. Country.

You have, she told him, a duty

to do this. A patriotic duty. All the losing, it's demoralizing. Especially for the troops serving in harm's way.

"It kind of hit me," Bobby Ross said.

They've been married more than 40 years. She hasn't steered him wrong very often.

So Bobby Ross, whose umbilical has been tethered to the military much of his life, took the job last December. Head football coach, United States Military Academy, West Point.

He was 67. He had been retired three years. He had immersed himself in volunteer work and in their 15 grandchildren. He thought he was rid of football, after a lifetime of it. He had applied at a couple of schools and had been rejected, and they'd been polite enough about it, but

he was pretty sure of the why of the rejections: He was too old.

So he resigned himself and plunged his hands deep into the honey-do jar, the chores and errands that Alice kept for him to make sure he kept busy. He thought he had adjusted, adapted; he thought he was fine.

And then that bugle call, irresistible, the haunting echoes, calling to him ... another chance to serve your country.

"In a lot of ways, I think we're the true America's Team," he said. "All three of us, the academics."

And so they are in a way, even more so in uncertain times like these, and so what has befallen Army football in recent years has been especially wrenching — the first major program to lose 13 games in a season, no winning seasons in the last nine, a two-season record of 1-24 coming into 2004.

All that persistent losing had become a habit. The players had been beaten down. The first change Bobby Ross had to make was to break the cycle, reverse the mind-set.

"Just being competitive, that's not enough," he told them. "Keeping the score close, that's not the answer. I despise losing. I'm not very good at it."

He hasn't had to endure much of it, college or pro. He produced winners at Maryland and at Geor-

gia Tech, including a shared national championship. He produced winners at San Diego, including a Super Bowl berth, and at Detroit.

Nine games into the 2000 NFL season, he resigned. It wasn't because he suddenly stopped loving football, or was burned out.

No, it was blood clots, in both legs, and the family history was grim — his father had both legs amputated because of clots.

In time, Ross healed. But the thrill of the hunt, the competing, that still gnawed at him. That was the one thing he couldn't find a substitute for in retirement.

So when The Point called ...

He graduated from Virginia Military Institute. He coached there a year. He coached The Citadel. He spent three years in the Army. One of his sons graduated from the Naval Academy, another from the Air Force Academy. The bugle call is a theme song for the Ross family.

"I have a deep appreciation of what West Point stands for," he said. "and a deep respect for it. The history, the tradition, it's a very inspiring place to be."

He is a patriot coaching patriots, but love of country and sense of obligation, by themselves, don't win football games. The first four games of this year were no different. The losing streak reached 19 in a row. And then,

Oct. 9: Army 48, Cincinnati 29.

Next thing he knew, Bobby Ross was being hoisted aloft, carried off on the shoulders of players who one day, and soon, may find themselves half a world away, in a desert firefight.

The e-mail and the snail mail and the phone calls inundated the coach and the Cadets, much of it from Iraq and from Afghanistan, from troops with something to cheer about. Army followed up with another victory the very next week. Now, the Navy game beckons and the stack of mail and messages on the desk of Bobby Ross is, he figures, a foot and a half high. At least.

The perspective is never lost. Values are never diminished.

Football matters, yes, but they all know what might await them. On display in the Army locker room is an American flag that was flown during a skirmish in Afghanistan in which three American patriots perished.

Army is 2-8. Navy is 8-2. Not so long ago, Navy couldn't win a game. In that example, then, is inspiration for Army. And the history of Bobby Ross, the Virginian with the soft drawl and the set jaw, is to revive and restore.

"We've just started climbing that mountain," he said.

But all the way up, they can hear the echo of the bugle call.

Bill Lyon is a columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

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Roster stocked with title talent
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Sunday, December 5, 2004.

STARS AND STRIPES
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No. 1 Wake falls with a thud

Illinois makes it look easy in rout; Syracuse, N. Carolina roll on

The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Roger Powell Jr. scored 19 points, Dee Brown and Luther Head added 16 each and No. 5 Illinois made Wake Forest look more like a nonconference patsy than the top-ranked team in the country in a 91-73 rout Wednesday night.

The Illini (5-0) led by double digits for the last 28-plus minutes of the game, and were up by as much as 32 in the second half. With 8:34 still to play, the "Orange Krush" student section broke into chants of "Overrated!" In the final minutes of the game, there were chants of "We're No. 1!"

Illinois has won 35 straight at home against nonconference opponents, a streak dating to Nov. 17, 1998. The Illini are 66-3 overall at Assembly Hall since the 2000-01 season.

Wake Forest (5-1), which climbed to No. 1 for the first time in school history, was held to 39 percent shooting, and its two best players weren't a factor.

Chris Paul, the leading vote-getter on the AP's preseason All-America team, had 10 points and Justin Gray, MVP of the Pre-season NIT, had 11. Eric Williams, the other member of Wake Forest's big three, had 18 on 7-for-13 shooting.

No. 3 Syracuse 91, St. Bonaventure 67: At Syracuse, N.Y., Hakim Warrick had 18 points and 11 rebounds and Josh Pace added 14 points and 10 rebounds for Syracuse (6-0), which got its 30th straight victory over teams from New York state and sent the Bonnies (0-4) to their 21st straight road loss.

Gerry McNamara had 17 points and Dar-

Men's Top 25 roundup

ryl Watkins 12 for Syracuse. Billy Edelin had four points and three assists in his return to the lineup after leaving the team in the middle of last season for personal reasons.

Wade Dunston led the Bonnies with 17 points.

No. 9 North Carolina 70, Indiana 63: At Bloomington, Ind., Rashad McCants scored 19 points and Raymond Felton 18 to lead the Tar Heels (5-1) to their fifth straight victory.

Indiana (2-1) was led by Bracey Wright with 18 points and Robert Vaden with 16 points and nine rebounds.

Indiana fans were not kind to North Carolina's Sean May, a former Indiana Mr. Basketball and the son of Indiana All-American Scott May. He was booed during warmups and one fan had a sign taken away that read "Sean May Traitor." Five fans wore shirts that spelled out the phrase "May you must be adopted," and the boos and chants intensified throughout the game as May struggled. He missed five of seven shots and finished with eight points, all in the second half.

No. 13 Pittsburgh 65, St. Francis, Pa. 41: At Pittsburgh, Chevion Troutman led a decisive 17-2 run late in the first half and scored 22 points as Pittsburgh improved to 28-0 in games against St. Francis.

Troutman made four free throws and Antonio Graves, Carl Krauser and Ronald Ramon hit three-pointers during the game, which pushed Pitt (4-0) from a 17-all tie into a 34-19 lead.

Gonzaga 99, No. 14 Washington 87: At Spokane, Wash., Adam Morrison scored 26 points and Ronny Turiaf had 23 points and 13 rebounds as Gonzaga (4-1) won its seventh straight over Washington.

Nate Robinson led Washington (4-1) with 22 points, including four three-pointers.

Gonzaga led from the opening tip, and pulled away from a 59-all tie with 13 minutes remaining. Three-pointers by Derek Raivio and Morrison helped Gonzaga build a 92-82 lead with 2:25 to play.

Jamaal Williams had 18 points for Washington.

No. 22 Alabama 114, East Tennessee 77: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Earnest Shelton scored 24 points and Ronald Steele had a school-record 18 assists for Alabama.

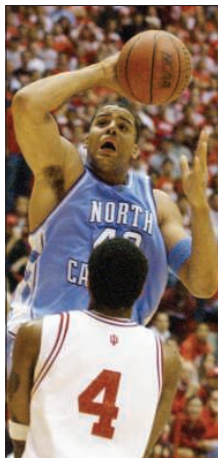
Shelton was 6-for-11 from three-point range, and the Crimson Tide (5-1) shot 19-of-41 from behind the arc — breaking the school record of 16 set in 1996 against Mercer.

Kennedy Winston added 21 points and 10 rebounds. Steele broke the school assist record of 16 and Alabama's 30 also was a school record.

Dillion Sneed had 30 points and Tim Smith added 24 for East Tennessee (2-3).

No. 24 Virginia 48, Northwestern 44: At Evanston, Ill., Elton Brown had 15 points and 12 rebounds, including the first eight points of the game, as the Cavaliers (5-0) held their fifth straight opponent to 60 points or less.

Northwestern (1-4) has its worst record since 1999-2000, when it opened with the same record.



Sean May, a former Indiana Mr. Basketball, had a nightmare game in his first trip back to the state as a player for North Carolina. As fans booed his every move, May struggled through a scoreless first half and here commits a charging foul. He did have the consolation of a 70-63 win over Indiana.

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It's open season on champs in high school basketball

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

Here is a basketball season's worth of storylines as the DODDS-Europe high school teams start play:

Streaks at apogee?

Heidelberg's streak of five straight European Division I boys crowns is mostly in the hands of newcomers with the departure of the three first-team All-Europeans who fueled last season's unbeaten romp.

"We will not be the team we were last year," Heidelberg coach Brad Shahan said. "We have one starter back, Lewis Allen, along with two other varsity players, Tyreke Wesley and Brandon Grant."

Don't count out the Lions just yet.

"We hope to improve throughout the season," Shahan said, "and play well at tourney time."

The Bithury girls are in the same boat. The Lady Barons have won the past four European D-II crowns, but new coach David Turner has just one returning starter, Erica Winters.

Turner's not intimidated, however. "If we play hard and pay attention," he said, "we might win another."

Heirs apparent?

Heidelberg's rebuilding might leave the door open for the Kaiserslautern boys, who return five varsity players, led by 6-foot-9 junior Aaron Ellis.

Also back for coach Clinton Robinson's squad are Jamal Aneke, Julian Smalls, Brian Hill and Lamont Robinson.

Ramstein's Len Tarnowski, whose team came four points short of topping Heidelberg in last season's title game, has varsity experience in Brennon Reiford, Eric Murray and Allen Weaver.

In D-II the Hanau girls, European runners-up last season, return a pair of key players in 6-0 All-Europe forward Katisha Fautleroy, who averaged 14 points per game, and point guard Kyrt Bye-Nagel.

Coach Michael Hunt says his Lady Panthers are rebuilding, but that's a nice price for cornerstones.

Also in the D-II mix are Aviano, led by sophomore starter Cheri McNeely and three seniors; Naples, which will go as far as two-time All-Europe guard Michelle Aguilera and junior Renna Damon can take them.

The D-III boys race could go in any direction, according to Alan Campbell of London Central, whose seven returning lettermen include "Foxy" Thomas.

"I think you have to keep an eye on Rota," Campbell said. "They return everyone, plus Ben Anderson, who's an excellent job of preparing his team."

Campbell also cited the experience of Iceland and Brussels, along with Alconbury, whose young team grew with plenty of playing time last season, as contenders.

The Matt's Ramsteins All-Europeans can't be dismissed, either, given that All-European Russell Bailey returns to a team that lost only to Naples and Aviano in last year's D-III tournament.

Stuck at the top?

Tim Smith's D-II Hanau boys' champs return 6-5 All-Europe forward Marcus Fontanez, along with Malcolm Lane, Jeremy Marshall and Daniel Sugui to face the challenges from the two Italy powers Aviano and Naples.

Mick Plummer's D-III girls' champion Anschbach Cougars bring back 60 percent of last season's squad — All-Europe second-teamers Britney Britton and Keke Johnson and starting forward Alison Hazen. All three are fresh from America's D-III volleyball championship team.

Challengers?

Kathy Clemons has three starters back from last

MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Aviano's Dustin Miller aims for three of his 50 points in last season's Division III semifinal against Anschbach.



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Anschbach's Keke Johnson is back along with Britney Britton to give the Cougars a good shot at repeating as Division III girls champs.

year's Hofenheim, led by 6-4 III-South all-tourney center Pat Busby, 20-point scorer Carlos Jones and outside shooter Jason Parks.

Four starters — Joe Puttman, Quentin Fowler, Kael Richardson and Anthony Colin — and a point guard, Nikolas Kryzians, who's been honing his skills in a Belgian league make an optimist of SHAPE coach Mike Vargas.

While Bithury's Lin Hairstone will build his club around rapidly developing 6-6 sophomore center Nick Brown and senior shooting guard Trey Wilson. Vilseck's Ron Rottger has a solid post man in 6-5 senior Kevin Pollock and backcourt in senior Aaron Vernon and sophomore Jamaal Johnson.

Work in progress?

At Wiesbaden, Carl Johnson, takes over from Jim Campbell. He returns just one starter from last season, Robert Edwards.

New Wiesbaden girls' coach Althea Walker suits up just one senior, 5-10 pivot Caitlyn Watson.

Lakenheath's D-I championship girls have just two starters, Ebony Morris and Mimi Smith, back for coach Dave Phelps' second season. However, that's better than new Lakenheath boys coach J.B. Morrow, who has no starters back and no film of last year's games.

Small is beautiful?

Menwith Hill's boys, under new coach William Bailey, have taken their Division IV status to heart, starting five athletic guards. Tallest of them is 6-0 LeShawn Adams.

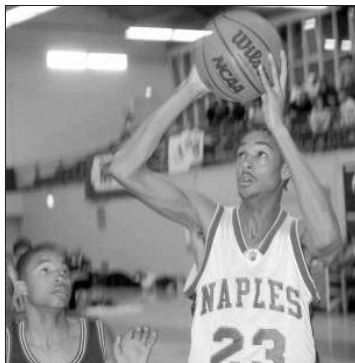
More glory?

Individuals who can be expected to shine again:

■ Shooting stars: Aviano's Dustin Miller, who hit 50 points in a tourney game last season, and Rota's Samerria Crowder, who scored 23 or so each time out, will be filling them up again.

■ Unguarded optimism: Three-time All-Europe guard Krisys Grosselin, an 18-point scorer who already signed to play at Shepherd University in West Virginia, joins with veteran Heather Steele in a bid to return runner-up Ramstein to the D-I throne.

■ More star power: Other All-Europeans back for another campaign are Neal Griffin of Patch, a 20-point-per-game scorer; and Timothy Battle of Bamberg, who averaged 13 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists per game.



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Mark Peayrer's return makes defending European Division III champ Naples a contender even though the team will play in D-II this season.

New tourney format changes landscape

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

The winds of change continue to sweep through the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe sports scene.

Under a new plan — instituted in last month's European volleyball and cross-country championship events — DODDS-Europe sports officials have implemented a four-division format for the season-ending basketball tournament.

That means teams such as Richard Elliott's Naples Wildcats will play in Division II instead of Division III this season, and that's just fine with Elliott.

"We want to play in Division II," said Elliott, who coached the Wildcats to the European D-III crown last February. "That's where we belong."

Under the old system, only the two Mediterranean-based schools qualified for the six-team European D-III tournament.

This season, all schools automatically are invited to Mannheim to vie for European crowns in one of four divisions, based on enrollment size. That pits Naples — along with fellow Italy power Aviano — against D-II schools from the rest of Europe instead of the smaller D-III schools they have faced in the past.

But don't feel sorry for the Italy-based teams.

Senior-laden Naples returns 6-6 All-Europe second-teamer Mark Peayrer and point guard Josh Kaimakua from last year's championship squad, while Division III runner-up Aviano brings back Dustin Miller, who averaged 28 points a game last season. The Saints also have Carl Cephas and three other starters for this year's run.

The Italy teams will need all that, and more, according to Mannheim coach John Crockett.

"For a team to win [Division

Season openers

Friday	Saturday
Patch at Kaiserslautern	Kaiserslautern at Mannheim
Heidelberg at Frankfurt Inter. School	Mannheim at Heidelberg
Inter. School of Brussels at Brussels	Bamberg at Wiesbaden
Wurzburg at Bamberg	Bamberg at Wiesbaden
Berlin at Black Forest Academy	Wiesbaden at Mannheim
Anschbach at Mannheim	SHAPE at London Central
SHAPE at London Central	Hofenheim at Wiesbaden
Hofenheim at Wiesbaden	Alconbury at Baumholder
Alconbury at Baumholder	Naples at Mannheim
Overseas School of Rome at Aviano	Livorno at Vicenza
Naples at Mannheim	Livorno at Vicenza
Livorno at Vicenza	Milan at Sigonella
Milan at Sigonella	

II," he said, "they will have to play six games in three days. That might mean sloppy play in the semis and finals as the players will be very tired. The teams with the deeper benches usually win in this type of format."

Crockett said he would prefer an all-divisions-in-one-bracket event.

"I think the ideal end-of-the year tournament," he said, "would be to have all the divisions together and crown an overall European champion."

That's a concept that appeals to Kaiserslautern girls' coach Corey Sullivan, too.

"I wouldn't mind seeing one tournament from top to bottom, like the old Indiana high school system," he said. "Except for Heidelberg and Ramstein, most of the schools are pretty close in enrollment, whether they are in Division I or Division III."

For Baumholder coach Carter Hollenbeck, an all-in-one-place is as good as an all-in-one tournament.

"I love the idea that all the teams will meet for the tourney," he said. "It gives a 'March Madness' effect."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Williams rejects deal to come back in '05

Former Dolphins RB still fighting team's breach of contract lawsuit

BY TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Ricky Williams rejected a deal that would have allowed him to serve a four-game drug suspension this season and return to the NFL next year.

"Ricky indicated to me that he is no longer interested in resuming his career at this time," Williams' lawyer, David Cornwell, said in a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press on Thursday.

The 1998 Heisman Trophy winner needed to let the league know by Thursday so he could be moved from the retired list to the suspended list by the deadline. He would have served the suspension for the Miami Dolphins' final 12 games, starting Dec. 12 at Denver.

"David Cornwell informed our office that Ricky Williams has declined to accept the terms of his reinstatement," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Dolphins spokesman Harvey Greene would not comment, saying the matter is between Williams and the NFL.

Williams, 27, stunned his team by retiring shortly before Miami opened training camp in July. The Dolphins filed a lawsuit in federal court against the running back, seeking the \$8.6 million an arbitrator ruled he owes the team for breaching his contract.

Williams is fighting the decision.

He is now enrolled in a 17-month course at the California College of Ayurveda in Grass Valley, Calif., studying holistic medicine.

The talks to allow Williams back into the league involved a promise to return to the field next season and to re-enter the NFL drug program immediately, including "being tested on a regular basis."

"The NFL sought assurances

Former Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams could have served a four-game drug suspension this season and returned to the NFL next year.

that Ricky is indeed committed to playing," Cornwell said.

Williams gave up the \$5 million he would have earned this season, which would have been his sixth in the NFL, amid reports he faced suspension for substance abuse.

He rushed for 3,225 yards in two seasons with the Dolphins, including a league-leading 1,853 yards in 2002. Miami acquired him from New Orleans after the 2001 season.

But without Williams, the Dolphins have gone into a tailspin.

They're 2-9 and will finish with a losing record for the first time since 1988.

Williams has social-anxiety disorder and was a spokesman for an anti-depressant. He said marijuana helped him after he stopped using the anti-depressant.

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. See Page 24 for complete injury report provided by the league.

Raiders: RB Tyrone Wheatley (torn left hamstring) will likely miss two to three weeks.

Giants: RB Tiki Barber (stitches in knee) was held out of practice Wednesday, but is expected to play Sunday against Washington.

Chiefs: QB Trent Green (sore ribs) missed practice Wednesday and remains questionable for Sunday's game at Oakland.

Packers: RB Ahmad Green (bruised ribs) practiced Wednesday and is expected to play Sunday at Philadelphia.

make his NFL debut at quarterback, taking snaps at rookie center Alex Stepanovich. The fourth rookie is wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald.

Grizzlies hire Fratello to replace ailing Brown

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Mike Fratello was hired as coach of the Memphis Grizzlies on Thursday as a replacement for Hubie Brown, who unexpectedly retired last week for health reasons.

Fratello coached the Atlanta Hawks for eight seasons and the Cleveland Cavaliers for six. He will be the Grizzlies' seventh head coach.

"This is the beginning of a new year for all of us," Grizzlies President Jerry West said. "We want to get back to where we feel good about ourselves."

Grizz, 71, was coach of the year last season after leading the team to its first playoff appearance. He cited unspecified health reasons when he retired last week.

"I am inheriting a team that knows organization, that knows discipline and plays unselfishly," Fratello said. "That is a great head start."

The Grizzlies have lost four straight since Brown retired and assistant coach Lionel Hollins was appointed interim coach. Hollins will stay as an assistant coach. Fratello also said former Golden State Warriors coach Eric Musselwhite would join his staff as an assistant.

Fratello's overall NBA record is 592-499, including 20-34 in the playoffs. He was an assistant under Brown for four seasons in Atlanta (1978-81) and one season in New York (1983-85). He replaced Brown as interim coach of the Hawks for three games in 1981.

Nuggets' White pleads guilty to firearms charges

DENVER — Denver Nuggets forward Rodney White pleaded guilty to two weapons charges and agreed to 100 hours of community service to have a three charge dropped.

White pleaded guilty Tuesday in Washington to charges of possession of an unregistered firearm and unregistered ammunition.

Prosecutors agreed to dismiss a charge of carrying a pistol without a license if White completes his community service in Washington by Sept. 6. White would face no further jail time.

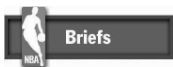
He spent two weeks in jail after he and two other men were arrested in Washington on Sept. 5 for allegedly shooting randomly into the air.

"This has been a tough time for me, my team and my family," White said in a statement. "I sincerely apologize for what I have done and look forward to having this matter placed behind me."

Two banned from Palace for alleged involvement in brawl

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Two men were banned from events at The Palace for what the Detroit Pistons say is their involvement in last month's NBA brawl.

John Green and Charlie Haddad were sent letters informing them of the ban, which also includes events at DTE Energy Music Theatre in Clarkston, Pistons spokesman Matt Dobek said



Briefs

Wednesday. The Clarkson site is another holding of the Palace Sports and Entertainment organization.

Apart from Pistons games, the Palace hosts figure skating competitions and concerts. The DTE Energy Music Theatre holds concerts.

Green, of Oakland County's West Bloomfield Township, is accused of lobbing a cup at Indiana Pacers forward Ron Artest on Nov. 19, sparking the brawl. Haddad, of Burt, ran onto the court that night, Dobek said.

"They're completely picking on the little guy," Shawn Smith, Green's lawyer, said Wednesday.

The brawl spilled into the stands and led to three Indiana players being suspended for 25 or more games, including a season-long ban for Artest.

There is no phone listing for Haddad.

No criminal charges have been filed in the brawl. Oakland County prosecutor David Goryncia said Tuesday police must finish their investigation first.

Goryncia had told The Detroit News that Pacers players would be charged, but declined to specify the players or charges.

Friend faces drug charge over pot found in Anthony's bag

DENVER — Prosecutors filed a drug charge Wednesday against a friend of NBA star Carmelo Anthony who said he accidentally left marijuana in the player's backpack before it was found during an airport luggage search.

James Cunningham of St. Louis faces a charge of possessing less than one ounce of marijuana. If convicted, he could be fined \$100 but would face no jail time.

Prosecutors originally filed the same charge against Anthony after a search of his bag found marijuana in his pack on Oct. 15 while he and his Denver Nuggets teammates were waiting to board a flight to Milwaukee for an exhibition game.

The charge was dropped two weeks ago after Cunningham signed an affidavit saying he borrowed the backpack without Anthony's knowledge and left the marijuana in it.

Magic place F Garrity on injured list, activate Augmon

ORLANDO, Fla. — Orlando Magic forward Pat Garrity went on the injured list with a sprained left foot, and Stacey Augmon was activated to fill the roster spot before Wednesday night's game against Toronto.

Garrity, a three-point specialist, was hurt during Orlando's loss to Boston on Monday night. He's averaging 7.1 points, lowest since his rookie season, and is shooting a career-worst 31 percent on three-pointers.

Augmon had three games and seven rebounds in seven games before going on the injured list Nov. 20 with tendinitis in his left knee.

Undrafted rookie RB Croom prepared to start for Cards

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — If Emmitt Smith can't go on Sunday in Detroit, undrafted rookie Larry Croom will start at running back for the Arizona Cardinals.

The former UNLV back is humble about the opportunity.

"It's definitely a blessing," Croom said. "I didn't expect it, especially not this year. Coach Wilson (running backs coach Kirby Wilson) always told me to keep working hard and you never know what will happen."

Couch Dennis Green had declared Smith out of Sunday's game with a sprained left big toe. Smith didn't practice Wednesday, but was listed as questionable,

which is supposed to mean there's a 50-50 chance he can play Sunday.

Croom has moved ahead of Josh Scobey on the depth chart to become Smith's backup after Troy Hambrick was lost for the season with a torn foot ligament.

"He's a very quick player," Green said of Croom. "His shiftiness is pretty obvious every time he touches the football."

Croom carried 10 times for only 25 yards in last week's 13-3 loss to the New York Jets. Arizona managed just 71 yards rushing in the game.

If Croom starts, he will be the fourth rookie in Arizona's offensive lineup. John Navarre will

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SPORTS

Illinois leaves Wake behind



Illinois' Fred Nkemdi guards Wake Forest's Richard Joyce (23) late in the second half at Assembly Hall in Champaign, Ill., on Wednesday. No. 5 Illinois beat No. 1 Wake Forest 91-73. See story on Page 30.



Grizzlies hire Fratello to take over for Brown, Page 33

Paper: Giambi testified he used steroids

Yankee told grand jury drugs came from Bonds' trainer

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — New York Yankees slugger Jason Giambi injected himself with human growth hormone in 2003 and used steroids for at least three seasons, according to his grand jury testimony that was reviewed by the San Francisco Chronicle.

The testimony given in December 2003 to the federal grand jury investigating BALCO contradicts Giambi's public proclamations that he never used performance-enhancing drugs.

Baseball probably cannot punish Giambi. Penalties for steroid use began in 2004. Human growth hormone, or hGH, is not specifically banned by the major leagues.

Giambi described to grand jurors how he injected hGH in his stomach, testosterone into his buttocks, rubbed an undetectable steroid known as "the cream" on his body and placed drops of another, called "the clear," under his tongue, the Chronicle reported Thursday.

Giambi testified that he obtained several different steroids from Barry Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, one of four men indicted by the grand jury probing the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative. He said he got the hGH from a gym in Las Vegas.

Anderson's attorney, Tony Serra, declined comment to the Chronicle, citing a court order.

Anderson, BALCO founder Victor Conte, BALCO vice president James Valente and track coach Remi Korchenyuk all have pleaded not guilty to the charges, which include steroid distribution.

The Chronicle report came out the day before Conte is scheduled to speak on the ABC program "20/20."

On Wednesday, a federal judge refused to immediately dismiss the charges in response to accusations that prosecutors illegally searched BALCO headquarters and Anderson's house and car. U.S. District Judge Susan Illston said she may conduct hearings into the matter in January.

Giambi was among dozens of elite athletes — including Bonds, Gary Sheffield and track stars Tim Montgomery and Marion Jones — who testified before the grand jury last year under a promise of limited immunity from prosecution.

Bonds, Jones and Montgomery deny using performance-enhancing drugs. Sheffield told Sports Illustrated and ESPN he used "the cream" and "the clear" from BALCO, but that he did not know they contained steroids.

Giambi met Anderson when the trainer joined Bonds on an All-Star tour in Japan in November 2002. Giambi said he wanted to know what Bonds' secret for success was.

SEE GIAMBI ON PAGE 31

Suns improve league's best record with ninth straight victory

Page 34



Williams turns down deal that would have let him return to NFL next season

Page 33



Report: Notre Dame set to meet with Utah's Meyer about coaching vacancy

Page 31

